Saipan holds 5th Joint Memorial Service. PAGE 2
NMC 2024 nursing grad passes NCLEX-RN. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

$1

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 136
TUESDAY JULY 9, 2024
www.saipantribune.com
www.facebook.com/saipantribune

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. staff poses with Helmsley Charitable Trust trustee Walter Panzirer, fourth from the left, Gov. Arnold I Palacios, and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang following the awarding of a $6.4-million grant to fund the purchase of the CNMI's first MRI.

CHCC awarded $6.4M grant for CNMI's very own MRI

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The prestigious Helmsley Charitable Trust has officially announced the CNMI's inclusion to its Rural Healthcare Program portfolio and, in doing so, has provided the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. an over $6-million grant for the CNMI's very own state-of-the-art Magnetic Resonance Imaging or MRI.

See CHCC on Page 4

PALACIOS ON RT&T VIOLATIONS

'It's disheartening, we need to fix it'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The recent pleas made by Rota stakeholders to the CNMI administration to champion the termination of Rota Terminal and Transfer's contract as Rota's sole stevedoring operator has not fallen on deaf ears with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios assuring that he has forwarded the matter to the Commonwealth Ports Authority which is expected to make a final decision on the issue today.

Palacios

Previously Rota Merchandising Corp.

See FIX on Page 4

Villanueva continues fight over self-incrimination

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Shayne Blanco Villanueva asserted his right to use Fifth Amendment protection against self-incrimination during his appearance in Superior Court yesterday.

Villanueva's hearing was with regards to the contempt charge filed against him by the Office of the Attorney General for refusing to answer questions during legislative investigation on the previous administration's Building Optimism, Opportunity, and Stability Together grant program.

See VILLANUEVA on Page 4

CHRYSTAL MARINO
Shayne Villanueva greets a community member who sat in for his hearing yesterday in Superior Court in Susupe.

Gonzales first to file candidacy in NMI delegate race

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

John "Bolis" Gonzales, one of four who have announced their bid in the race for NMI delegate this coming general elections, has officially filed his candidacy with the Commonwealth Election Commission, making him the first delegate candidate to file his petition.

Yesterday morning, Gonzales, accompanied by dozens of his supporters and members of his campaign committee,

See GONZALES on Page 4

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
John "Bolis" Gonzales, one of the four others who have announced their bid in the race for NMI delegate this coming general elections, has officially filed his candidacy with the Commonwealth Election Commission making him the first delegate candidate to file his petition.

INSIDE

LOCAL
Members of a pro-independence movement in the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia demanded the "release and immediate return" of the Indigenous Kanak leader who was flown to mainland France for pretrial detention after recent deadly unrest.

PAGE 9

WORLD
Hamas has given its initial approval of a U.S.-backed proposal for a phased cease-fire deal in Gaza, dropping a key demand that Israel commit up front to a complete end to the war, a Hamas official and an Egyptian official said Saturday.

PAGE 10

LIFE & STYLE
"Despicable Me 4," the Illumination Animation sequel, led the way over the holiday box office weekend with $75 million in ticket sales Friday through Sunday and $122.6 million since opening on Wednesday, according to studio estimates Sunday.

PAGE 11

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Saipan holds 5th Joint Memorial Service

RACQUEL FLOYD

Attendees of the 5th Joint Memorial Service pose for a group photo last Sunday at the south parking land of Aqua Resort Club.

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The 5th Joint Memorial Service was held at the southern end of Aqua Resort Club's parking lot last Sunday.

The event was organized by Kuentai Japan/Kuentai USA wherein three leaders from three religions from Saipan and Japan—Japanese Shinto, Buddhism, and Catholic priests gathered to commemorate the 80th Battle of Saipan.

It was also an opportunity to give thanks to Japan, Saipan, and the United States for their good relations, and prayed for peace for those who are suffering from the ongoing battles in Palestine and Ukraine.

Along with the priests led by Archbishop-elect Ryan Jimenez of Agana, Guam, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, and Saipan Mayor Ramon B. "RB" Camacho attended the event.

The annual memorial event started in 2016 and was suspended in 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jimenez said that this was his third time to participate and he's happy about the outcome this year.

"I think more participation this time and also more planning. More because you know they were actually asking to be part of this since last year, they came in May, then we had a Zoom meeting. Then they came a few days ago so they, the organizers, really gave importance to this, so I know that this is something really you know, not just like another event."

Yukari Akatsuka, secretary general of Kuentai USA, served as the host of the event and she welcomed the attendees and thanked Saipan. She also explained why the memorial is being held in the southern end of Aqua Resort Club's parking lot.

"Just below this site, in what is known as a mass burial, the remains of 163 Japanese soldiers were recovered in 2011 and 2012, however, this is only a small part of the total and many war remains have yet to be discovered."

RACQUEL FLOYD

Kuentai USA secretary general Yukari Akatsuka served as host of the event.

Palacios delivered the opening remarks and said, "today, as we gather to celebrate this event in a degree of solemnity and respect to the 4,500 Japanese soldiers that are buried here ... the 450 Americans ... We recall your sacrifices. We also pray for the world especially in our region as we all know and very aware of the tensions in the region, in our Indo-Pacific region." He also thanked the organizer Kuentai USA, welcomed the consul general of Japan and lastly congratulated Archbishop-elect Ryan Jimenez.

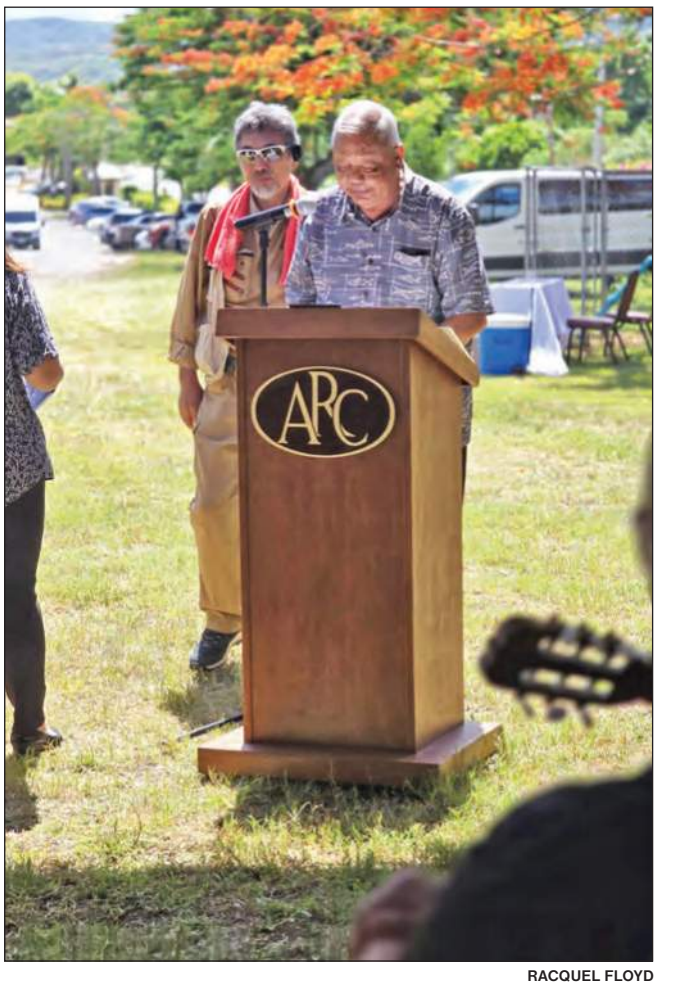
"I also would be re-missed if I don't recognize Archbishop Ryan Jimenez, who's just been elevated yesterday. Congratulations bishop and we will continue to pray for you," the governor added.

It was followed by remarks from Apatang who prayed for continued peace in the region.

"There isn't a conflict today, but we continue to pray that this would last. [Pray that the events of World War II] will never happen again today. We must pray even more that there will be some healing as we see the world around us... let us pray for those who are suffering and dying in the war in Ukraine."

The ceremony was highlighted by Shinto prayers in English and Japanese led by reverend Yoshinobu Miyake, chief minister of the Konko Church of Kasugaoka and a prayer by Jimenez together with Rev. Tony Yarobwebmel, deacon of St. Jude Church.

Kuentai USA was incorporated in April of 2014 to retrieve the remains of American soldiers who died in the Pacific battlefields. Kuuentai Japan has been working to retrieve remains of Japanese soldiers for nine years and recovered about 16,000 remains from the Philippines and 800 from Saipan.



RACQUEL FLOYD

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang delivers his remarks during the 5th Joint Memorial Service event last Sunday at the south parking land of Aqua Resort Club.

NMC 2024 nursing grad passes NCLEX-RN

Northern Marianas College nursing graduate Cassie Matta has successfully passed the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) exam, joining the ranks of many NMC students who have achieved this milestone. Matta is the first member of NMC's 2024 Nursing graduating class to pass the NCLEX-RN.

Nursing graduates must pass the NCLEX-RN to be able to practice nursing in the United States. The exam tests the knowledge, skills, and abilities of nursing graduates in order to certify that they are capable of applying entry-level nursing practices correctly.

"We are extremely proud of Cassie's accomplishments as well as the other nursing students who have been able to reach this important milestone of passing the NCLEX," NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

NMC Nursing Department chair Rosa Aldan likewise congratulated Matta on her achievements.

"On behalf of the entire nursing faculty here at the college, we are extremely proud of Cassie for passing such a rigorous exam," Aldan said. "I have no doubt that she will do great things in her career as a nurse."

Having graduated this year with a nursing degree, Matta, a 2024 NMC nursing graduate, pursued nursing due to her passion for helping people and improving lives.

"The prospect of offering empathetic medical care, promoting health and wellness, and assisting patients and their families during trying times motivates me," Matta said.

Matta emphasizes utilizing Kaplan while preparing for the NCLEX, "I diligently studied, practiced over 2,000 questions, and utilized every available resource to enhance my knowledge and test-taking skills. Moreover, the unwavering support of my husband, family, and friends who cheered me on throughout this journey was invaluable."

"Throughout my study period, I consistently utilized Kaplan, a resource we've relied on since the first semester. I found it to be instrumental in preparing me for the exam, particularly through the CAT exams which closely simulated the NCLEX experience. Furthermore, the encouragement and empowerment from my instructors throughout the nursing program gave me the confidence I needed to succeed," Matta added.

NMC

Northern Marianas College nursing graduate Cassie Matta.

Her advice to other NMC students planning to take the NCLEX revolves around consistency and believing in yourself. "Be consistent, learn how to dissect a question, and believe in yourself. The NCLEX is truly just a safety exam. If you have that in mind, you don't have anything to be worried about."

For more information about NMC's nursing program, email NMC Nursing Department fhair Rosa T. Aldan at rosa.aldan@marianas.edu or call (670) 237-6744. ***(PR)***

ADVERTISING FEATURE:

Acquiring an individual life insurance on top of your group life insurance coverage

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. life agents Jessica Sablan and Francine Camacho.

Some of us who have gained employment are lucky to have life insurance coverage included in our benefits package to help secure our loved ones during an untimely death. A life insurance policy through an employer group life plan has many advantages, but in most cases, leaves you with room to enhance coverage, depending on your economic need. We often neglect our personal obligation to take a long hard look at the details of our life insurance policy to ensure that what we are being offered through our group life plan will be adequate to meet financial obligations and long-term needs of those we will leave behind.

Group life insurance, which is also known as employer-provided life insurance, is an inexpensive life insurance coverage option. In most cases, employers make the same level of coverage available to their qualifying employees and pay a portion of the premiums. However, a life insurance policy through your employer sponsored plan will technically belong to the employer, and coverage ends when employment is terminated.

Considering that a group life insurance plan has limitations, it is wise to consider investing in an individual life insurance policy. Let us look at the three most important reasons why you should consider purchasing an individual policy on top of what you already have through your group life plan:

1. Employer-provided life insurance coverage may not be adequate for the needs of your family (your beneficiaries) and your estate when you pass.

If you are single and with minimal or no debt, you may not feel the need to acquire a life insurance policy or enhance coverage—until your circumstances change. These circumstances could mean marriage, children, caring for an elderly person, and dependent guardianship. Circumstances and needs vary, so it important to have a thorough understanding of your current financial standing in the event of a financial loss, current and long-term debts, college fund needs, estimated funeral costs, medical expenses, and others to help determine investment levels into an individual life insurance product.

2. A group life insurance plan from your job may be more affordable, but coverage and contribution levels may change at any time.

Unlike a group life plan, an individual life policy is owned by the individual policyholder who also dictates coverage and product and will own the policy even after losing or changing jobs.

However, there are key advantages to group life plans. For example, guaranteed issue of a life policy without taking a medical examination or completing a medical questionnaire. Individual policy allows your life agent to tailor your policy to your specific needs. And because you are purchasing a plan through your employer, you would naturally be taking advantage of plan discounts, especially if there is a large volume of members in the group.

3. The younger you are, the more affordable your premiums will be.

If you want to get more bang for your buck, secure a life insurance policy when you are still young, not later. Even if you are not married and without children now, future life changes will still require the same premium protection. Acquiring life coverage when you are young can save you a ton of money in the long run.

It is best to meet with a life agent who can help with future planning to determine best approach. Many things will be factored in such future home ownership, children, college funds, etc.

To learn more about individual and group life insurance, visit Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. in Susupe during normal business hours Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm and ask for either of their two life agents—Jessica Sablan (jessica@pacificains.com) and Francine Camacho (francine@pacificains.com). You may also log on to www.pacificains.com/life for more information. PIUI is a general agent for Pacific Guardian Life and is celebrating 50 years of business in the CNMI. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID
ITB24-CHCC/WIC-020

CNMI WIC PROGRAM

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 3, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLE"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Name: Ambrose K. Ogumoro and Mayumi A. Ogumoro
Address: P.O. Box 505516 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 483-6232

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter of the Petition for the Appointment of General Guardianship for:	]	FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-0256
D.J.A.O.S. Minor Child(ren)	]	AMENDED **NOTICE OF HEARING**
By:	]	
Ambrose K. Ogumoro and Mayumi A. Ogumoro Petitioner(s)	]	

Notice is hereby given that above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 22, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa-Kim Tenorio.

Dated this 5th day of July, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/_____
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DONNA P. MIAH Petitioner,	]	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-0255
vs.	]	
JULHAS MIAH Respondent,	]	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 8010 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 25th day of June, 2024.

_____/s/_____
Clerk of Court

DFEMS' quick response contains fire near Blue Hill Apartments

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

In a swift and coordinated effort, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services successfully contained a trash fire that had sparked and threatened the Navy Hill area yesterday.

According to a press release from DFEMS yesterday, the incident was reported by a male resident of Blue Hill Apartments at approximately 3:27pm yesterday, after which Forestry-2, Engine-2, and Medic-2 were dispatched to the scene just two minutes after the call was received.

Firefighters arrived onsite at 3:33pm and the units conducted a thorough scene size-up and reported the situation to dispatch. The fire, consisting of piles of wood and other debris, was perilously close to the apartment complex and rapidly spreading toward nearby vegetation.

According to reports, by 7:21pm, Alpha shift commander Capt. C. Laniyo reported that the main fire was under control, and crews were initiating mop-up operations.

"Our team acted quickly and efficiently to prevent the fire from causing significant damage to the apartments and surrounding areas," Laniyo stated.

The Division of Fire Prevention and Arson Investigation promptly arrived at the scene to determine the fire's cause. At this time, the cause remains under investigation, with findings to be released once the investigation concludes.

With 65 fires in April alone, DFEMS has responded to nearly 100 fires since the beginning of 2024.

CHCC

From page 1

During a press conference yesterday at the CHCC, Helmsley Charitable Trust trustee Walter Panzirer made a historical announcement: the inclusion of the CNMI in its Rural Healthcare Program. In addition to the expansion, the CNMI was awarded over $6 million for an MRI and a building to house it in.

"The Trust is celebrating its 15th year of its Rural Healthcare Program. Over the last 15 years, we have funded over $700 million in eight rural states in the mainland. That's the historic announcement, we've expanded our program to two U.S. territories: the CNMI and American Samoa. Today, I am so happy to be announcing our expansion to Saipan and with that, comes a great grant, a $6.4-million grant to the CHCC to provide the CNMI with its first ever MRI," he said.

Panzirer explained that last year, he heard of the CNMI's unique healthcare challenges and decided to come out and see it for himself.

"So my staff and I came out last year to explore and learn of the healthcare problems in the CNMI. The governor was so kind to open up his office to speak to us about healthcare challenges and arranged meetings with different entities here as well as the hospital. We saw the challenges ourselves first hand. We heard about the challenges of people having to travel to Guam (even further out to Hawaii) for healthcare diagnostics and higher levels of care. A lot of that is significant cost to not only to insurance companies and Medicaid, but its a huge out of pocket expense for the patients making it a huge challenge for families to receive needed healthcare. So, when we got back, I made the decision with the other trustees to include the CNMI in our Rural Healthcare portfolio," he said,

"Now, the CNMI [will have] the latest and greatest equipment to meet their needs because I firmly believe that it doesn't matter where you live, your zip code should not determine your healthcare outcome. At the Trust, we aim to change that in the mainland and now here," he said.

In closing, Panzirer said this is the start of a long partnership between the CNMI and the Helmsley Charitable Trust.

"With our new commitment, that also means that we are partners, and we are going to be here for a while. This is a beginning of a long partnership," he said.

CHCC CEO Esther Muña expressed her gratitude, in behalf of CHCC and its patients, to the Helmsley Charitable Trust.

"Today is nothing short of momentous. We met with Walter last summer when he took the time to visit us here at CHCC to learn about the unique challenges we face. One of those challenges was that we don't have an MRI in CHCC. Hundreds of our patients must travel off-island for a service that most people in the United States provide their own communities. Having an MRI on island will improve our ability to diagnose and monitor various medical conditions including (but no limited to) neurological issues, cardiovascular diseases, and more," she said.

Muña shared that once the CNMI has its own MRI, it will tremendously cut costs for those in need of the vital healthcare service.

"MRI studies will be immediately available for emergency cases and when patients come in with trauma. Those who make it off-island for care leave behind their families, support systems, and even their jobs. Now, because of the Trust, this state-of-the-art diagnostics care will be available here at home. In addition, costs associated with off island referrals for MRIs will be greatly reduced if not eliminated. Having an MRI at CHC will have a tremendous impact for us in the CNMI. Also, our patients in Tinian will be able to get X-rays and ultrasounds close to home. Because of the trust, our patients will benefit from the convenience of diagnostics close to home, timely treatment plans, and medical intervention and follow up care," she said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

FIX

From page 1

Seabridge agent Pedro Q. Dela Cruz wrote to Palacios seeking the administration's help in lowering the cost of living on Rota which he claims skyrocketed due to RT&T recent rate increase which essentially charges companies shipping goods to Rota double for stevedoring services.

In a statement from Palacios yesterday, he said he has forwarded the matter to the CPA board which is expected to issue a decision RT&T's contract today.

"This is something we cannot continue to kick down the road. It's disheartening when you have [goods], equipment, or even a vehicle that cannot be brought to Rota to be offloaded because of the situation that we're in. We need to fix it. [CPA] is going to address the issue," he said.

In his letter, Dela Cruz claims RT&T is not following the tariff rate dated July 1, 2010, Rule 11: "Stevedoring Services pertaining to unloading shipping containers and bulk cargoes, from the carrier to the dock."

"The rates listed under this section for unloading of containers and bulk cargoes includes the cost of equipment and labor however, RT&T double charges for the equipment and labor cost on top of the established rates as indicated in the July 1, 2021 published tariff," said Dela Cruz.

As an example, Dela Cruz said the tariff rate for a 20-foot container is $350 which should include equipment and labor charges. However, Dela Cruz said RT&T added an equipment and labor cost charge for said container on top of the $350. Dela Cruz notes that this is also true for 40-foot containers which, under tariff rate rules, should cost $650 inclusive of labor and equipment charges.

To back his argument, Dela Cruz attached a copy of a Seabridge billing which reflected RT&T overbilling Seabridge by over $21,000 for equipment and labor costs.

"The final billing to Seabridge for Voyage V.24R/V.22, August 02,2021, inclusive of the tariff rate, equipment and labor is $34,295.28. You will note that the stevedoring charges for unloading of cargo/container is $9,342.51 and $3,925.90 for special services. If RT&T is to abide with the tariff rate, the final billing to Seabridge should be $13,268.41. Based on Rule 11; RT&T overbilled Seabridge in the amount of $21,026.87," he said.

On top of violating tariff rate rules, Dela Cruz said RT&T is effectuating a rate increase for stevedoring rental rates which would reflect an increase of 74% from the previous rates.

"Seabridge suspended shipping services to Rota after Typhoon Mawar from June 2023 to date. Seabridge experienced extensive damage to their fleet of tug boats and barges by Typhoon Mawar thus requiring extensive repair as well as dry docking in the Philippine. Seabridge announced in March 2024 the resumption of shipping services to start April 2, 2024 to Rota. Rota Merchandising Corp., dba, Isla Shipping, requested RT&T to verify the working condition of the crane to make sure that upon arrival of the Seabridge Vessel, M/V Triton on April 2, 2024 that RT&T will provide stevedoring operation. On March 22, 2024, Isla Shipping received an email message advising that RT&T is effectuating rate increase for stevedoring rental rates. The rate increase is 74% from the previous rates," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

VILLANUEVA

From page 1

Villanueva and his attorney Keith Chambers II, along with assistant attorney general James Kingman, who represented the government, appeared before Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja and presented arguments on not only the OAG's charges against Villanueva, but also the motions brought up by Chambers regarding the irrelevant information used in his client's case, and violation of Villanueva's right to legal counsel during the legislative hearing of the BOOST program.

On the motion to dismiss Villanueva's contempt of court charge, Chambers said that Villanueva had the right to plead the fifth, justifying the move, and saying that the questions posed has been conflicting and possibly self-incriminating for Villanueva.

"BOOST is a crime scene," said Chambers, arguing that whether recipient or administrator of BOOST, both parties have a viable fear of prosecution, as it is under investigation. "My client had the right to plead the Fifth on all those questions."

Chambers enhanced his stance, saying that fear of being prosecuted when involved in BOOST was normal. "....the Commonwealth is very open about the fact that everyone in BOOST has criminal exposure... it's not some program like Medicaid... this is a program that was shut down... it has multiple people being prosecuted for it."

Chambers listed several other cases, not completely the same, but similar to Villanueva's situation, in which the Fifth Amendment was applied and regarded.

Kingman argued that Chambers' case citations were not the same situation as Villanueva's case, especially since it was a legislative hearing. He said that the decision of the court was most likely to set a president for other cases, and therefore there has to be factual inquiries made.

"If there is going to be an assessment of how the Fifth Amendment applies to the Commonwealth in relation to legislative hearings, that is going to be of course the first impression," he said. "If this is going to be an issue it's going to be one that's going to have to be developed through factual inquiry."

In regards to the questions which Villanueva pled the Fifth to, of his education and certification that had been asked Villanueva by the legislature, Kingman stated that the questions were regular questions everyone will be asked in court. Kingman also said it is a bit exaggerated to say that the Commonwealth said everyone that has touched BOOST has criminal exposure.

The attorneys also reinforced the arguments marked in their legal brief. According to those documents, the Commonwealth outlined several key points; stating that the Commonwealth's primary contention is against Villanueva's reliance on the Fifth Amendment to dismiss the charges, arguing that such a defense does not hold in this context.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

GONZALES

From page 1

appeared at the CEC office in Susupe to officially file his candidacy petition.

"I am humbly thrilled to be the first candidate to file as an Independent who is beholden to no special interests other than our people's interests over politics, solutions, and actions," he said.

In his speech, Gonzales said should he be elected NMI delegate, no more are the days of putting politics over the people.

"No more making noises, no more investigation there is a point where that must stop because our people are suffering. They're still in tents, no water, no power, let us set a side politics and start identifying solutions and let's unleash actions," he said.

Gonzales also noted in his speech the qualities that make him the best fit for the position.

"Who can you trust as your most respected representative to the U.S. Congress, who possesses the most sensible character with integrity, fortitude, moral compass, strict work ethics, and principles to represent you in the U.S. Congress. Who exhibits the best leadership acumen with professional maturity spanning 30 years of work experience and performance recorded in the legislature, the executive branch, the federal government, and the non-profit sector. I've been helping our people with my fellow board members whether it be through NMTI, CHCC Volunteers Association, the Northern Marianas Descent Corporation, FESTPAC, and CDBGR," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

78th Liberation Day Parade

RACQUEL FLOYD

Delegates in the grand stage during the 78th Liberation Day Parade last Thursday at the Garapan Fishing Base.

RACQUEL FLOYD

Dancers of the Saipan Korean Association give flags to delegates at the grand stage after their performance.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Cultural dancers with the Saipan Korean Association wait under the shade just before the 78th Liberation Day Parade last Thursday.

RACQUEL FLOYD

The Fraternal Order Marianas Lady Eagles Club members perform during the 78th Liberation Day Parade last Thursday.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Cyclists ride through parade participants just before the 78th Liberation Day Parade last Thursday.

RACQUEL FLOYD

CNMI martial arts students doing a katha performance during the 78th Liberation Day Parade last Thursday at the Garapan Fishing Base. It's their first time to join the Liberation Day parade.

RACQUEL FLOYD

Lions Clubs International District 204, Region 2 members march during the 78th Liberation Day Parade last Thursday.

The 180 Productions members pose with a smile before the start of the 78th Liberation Day Parade last Thursday.

RACQUEL FLOYD

A colorful dance number from the Saipan Korean Association during the 78th Liberation Day Parade last Thursday at the Garapan Fishing Base.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Cultural dancers with the Saipan Korean Association wait under the shade just before the 78th Liberation Day Parade last Thursday.

CNMI SCHOLARSHIP OFFICE

P.O Box 5729 CHRB | Saipan, MP 96950 | Capitol Hill, Building #1326 | No. (670) 664-4750

Donna M. Flores	Monique B. Sablan	Dr. Elizabeth Emma C. Itibus	Diana B. Hocog	Patricia San Nicolas
Chairperson	Vice-Chairperson	Member	Member	Member

June 25, 2024

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Scholarship Board of Directors is hereby giving notice that it will hold its 4th regular board meeting on Thursday, July 11, 2024 at (9:30 a.m.) on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the CNMI Scholarship Office Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes
V. Public Comments
VI. Old Business
- a. Next Gen Scholarship – need to decide if CSO will include Next Gen option on the CSO online portal;
- b. Office Name Change – need

VII. New Business
- a. Board Committee Reports;
- b. Budget and Financial Report;
- c. Awards
  1. Determine to lift suspended programs;
  2. Award Amounts – continue the $750 award amount or make changes;
  3. Determine to suspend off-island applications and only allow NMC or NMTI due to financial constraints;
- d. Administrator's Report

VIII. Announcements & Next Meeting Date
IX. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Donna M. Flores, Chairwoman

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW24-ITB No.: 42400115

SUBMISSION DATE: August 08, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Rehabilitation of the Nursery Facility at Division of Agriculture, Kagman."

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **July 08, 2024** at Technical Services Divi-sion, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of pay-ment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **July 23, 2024, 9:00 a.m., ChST** at the **DLNR, Division of Agriculture Kagman Office, Saipan.** The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 p.m. local time on July 30, 2024** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division,** 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ANTHONY A. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

/S/ SYLVAN O. IGISOMAR
Secretary of DLNR

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 136

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

To serve his country, Donald Trump should leave the race

President Joe Biden's debate performance was a disaster. His disjointed responses and dazed look sparked calls for him to drop out of the presidential race.

But lost in the hand wringing was Donald Trump's usual bombastic litany of lies, hyperbole, bigotry, ignorance, and fear mongering. His performance demonstrated once again that he is a danger to democracy and unfit for office.

In fact, the debate about the debate is misplaced. The only person who should withdraw from the race is Trump.

Trump, 78, has been on the political stage for eight years marked by chaos, corruption, and incivility. Why go back to that?

To build himself up, Trump constantly tears the country down. There is no shining city on the hill. It's just mourning in America.

Throughout the debate, Trump repeatedly said we are a "failing" country. He called the United States a "third world nation." He said, "we're living in hell" and "very close to World War III."

"People are dying all over the place," Trump said, later adding "we're literally an uncivilized country now."

Trump told more than 30 lies during the debate to go with the more than 30,000 mistruths told during his four years as president. He dodged the CNN moderators' questions, took no responsibility for his actions, and blamed others, mainly Biden, for everything that is wrong in the world.

Trump's response to the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection he fueled was farcical. He said a "relatively small number of people" went to the Capitol and many were "ushered in by the police."

After scheming to overturn the 2020 election, Trump refused to say if he would accept the results of the 2024 election. Unless, of course, he wins.

The debate served as a reminder of what another four years of Trump would look like. More lies, grievance, narcissism, and hate. Supporters say they like Trump because he says whatever he thinks. But he mainly spews raw sewage.

Trump attacks the military. He denigrates the Justice Department and judges. He belittles the FBI and the CIA. He picks fights with allies and cozies up to dictators.

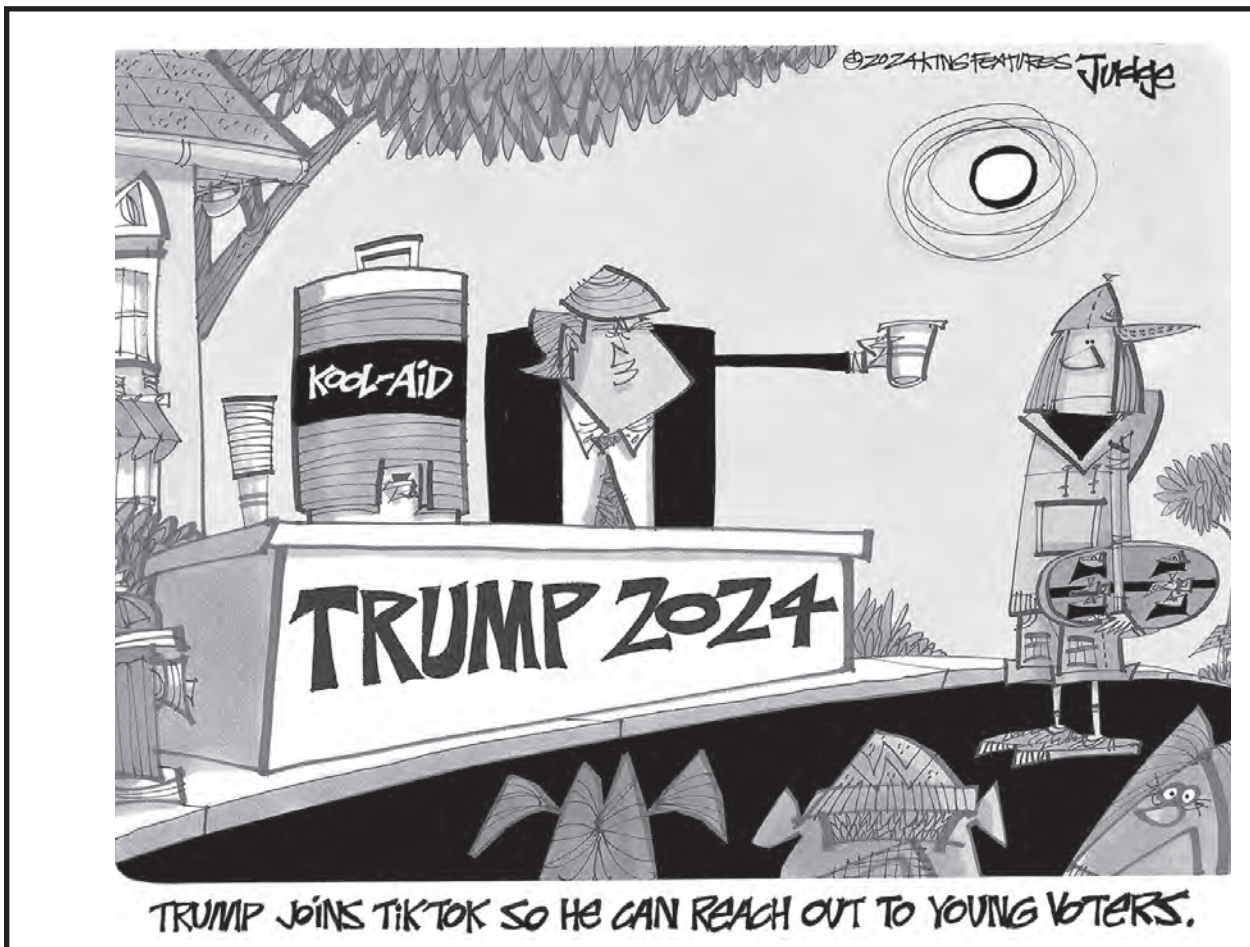
Trump is an unserious carnival barker running for the most serious job in the world. During his last term, Trump served himself and not the American people.

Trump spent chunks of time watching TV, tweeting, and hanging out at his country clubs. Over his four-year term, Trump played roughly 261 rounds of golf.

As president, Trump didn't read the daily intelligence briefs. He continued to use his personal cell phone, allowing Chinese spies to listen to his calls. During one Oval Office meeting, Trump shared highly classified intelligence with the Russian foreign minister and ambassador.

Trump's term did plenty of damage and had few accomplishments. The much-hyped wall didn't get built. Infrastruc-

See TRUMP on Page 7



Dear Mitch McConnell: Are you happy now? Or are you worried about that military tribunal?

By LINDA BLACKFORD
Lexington Herald-Leader

Dear Sen. McConnell,

Are you happy now?

Or are you and Liz Cheney making plans to head for the border with hopes that the Canadians will accept political refugees?

On Sunday on the Truth Social platform, Trump promoted posts calling for "televised military tribunals" for you and Liz and a lot of others.

"Elizabeth Lynne Cheney is guilty of treason," the post said. "Retruth if you want televised military tribunals." Trump promoted another post that called for the jailing of President Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, Sen. Chuck Schumer, former Vice President Mike Pence, and you, Sen. McConnell.

It followed previous calls for revenge on Trump's political enemies for all that he has been through.

But on Monday, the suggestion of political revenge didn't look quite so crazy, what with the Supreme Court handing him the keys to whatever kingdom he desires, a kingdom without you or Liz or Chuck Schumer in it.

And on Monday, after Biden's disastrous debate performance a week ago, Trump's second term seemed much more assured.

Unlike Andy Barr and Jamie Comer and the other profoundly unserious members of the Kentucky delegation, you've been noticeably quiet, Sen. McConnell, ever since your hand-picked Supreme Court handed down that opinion on presidential immunity.

It's an opinion that's quite different from what you said back in February 2021 about why you voted against the impeachment proceedings that happened after he left office: "Trump is still liable for everything he did while he was in office…We have a criminal justice system in this country. We have civil litigation and former presidents are not immune from being held accountable by either one."

Except now, thanks to the Supreme Court, they are.

Presumably, since Trump was still in office on Jan. 6, he cannot be held responsible for inciting a coup because it was an official act.

As Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote in her dissent: "The President of the United States is the most powerful person in the country, and possibly the world. When he uses his official powers in any way, under the majority's reasoning, he now will be insulated from criminal prosecution.

"Orders the Navy's Seal Team 6 to assassinate a political rival? Immune. Organizes a military coup to hold onto power? Immune. Takes a bribe in exchange for a pardon? Immune. Immune, immune, immune."

Senator, I know you're not responsible for the ineptitude of a Democratic Party that refused to face the reality of its elderly standard-bearer. I can only imagine you're sympathetic to your old friend and fellow octogenarian.

But you're responsible for much else.

You've made it clear you saw it as good politics to block a president from an opposing party from confirmation of his Supreme Court pick. You loved Citizens United, the case that you ushered through the Supreme Court that allowed so much latitude for dark money to buy and sell our politicians. As it turned out, buying Supreme Court justices worked out pretty well, too.

Maybe unfettered corporations, untrammeled dark money, unlimited power for an unhinged president is worth the fall of democracy in your eyes.

But now we're in that hoary old cliche of a perfect storm: A probable second term for Trump at the same time he's been given the go-ahead from the Supreme Court to do anything he wants. Military tribunals will be just a start.

Then Trump can go on to hollowing out the federal bureaucracy—now unneeded, because thanks to the Chevron decision, corporations will be regulating themselves. (The day after I wrote this, the New York Times published a story about your celebration of the stream of deregulatory decisions from the Supreme Court, so maybe it's all worth it in your eyes.) President Trump will be too busy creating massive detention camps for migrants and whoever else. The media, probably.

As for Ukraine, which you have bravely stood up for against the MAGAheads, I think Donald has already gotten his marching orders on that one.

If Trump wins Nov. 5, he wins. If he loses, he and his supporters will make Jan. 6 look like a tea party. And if you think that sounds hyperbolic, we've—and by we I mean you—have underestimated Trump at our peril, again and again.

At least Comer and Barr went full lickspittle from the beginning. You have sort of resisted the MAGA cult, but then again not really. Not enough and when it mattered.

You've accomplished a lot in your career, Sen. McConnell. Not here in Kentucky, still one of the poorest, sickest states in the nation, but in terms of political power. You could see Republican domination of the end of the republic before you leave office.

If you're not facing a military trial, that is.

So again I'll ask: Are you happy now?

80 YEARS AGO TODAY, JULY 9, 1944

Camp Chalan Kanoa: What was it?

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The Japanese internment camp on Saipan.

By DON A. FARRELL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

On this day 80 years ago, July 9, 1944, Lt. Gen. Holland Smith, USMC, speaking from his headquarters in Chalan Kanoa, declared that the island of Saipan was secure. That did not mean all the Japanese soldiers and sailors had been killed or captured, but rather that the they would not be able to take it back. Many Marines and soldiers would die from sniper fire before the war was over 13 months later.

During the early planning for the capture of Saipan, it had been recognized that there would be a large civilian population on the island, the first the U.S. would experience during the Pacific War.

The majority would be Japanese citizens (including Okinawans and Koreans at that time), with a minority of Chamorros and Carolinians. Although good plans were laid by Marine Corps Civil Affairs, they came to naught on June 15, the day the Marines landed at Sugar Dock, Chalan Kanoa.

With chaos and mayhem raining on the beach at Chalan Kanoa, no civilians were seen on invasion day. However, as the Marines moved forward the next day civilians would come out from under the rubble in the sugarcane factory area, begging for a drink of water. The Marines, not concerned about nationality at that moment, took these destitute people to the beach—more or less out of harm's way. All civilians, regardless of race, were held there with no shelter of any nature, other than the shade of a destroyed landing craft. A handful of Marines and Seabees who could be released from combat did their best to provide the refugees with a drink of water and perhaps some extra C-rations.

As the Marines, joined by the men of the 27th Infantry Division, continued the drive forward, more and more refugees were discovered and moved to the beach. In the Susupe area, five temporary, barbed-wire stockades were quickly erected by Seabees on the landing beaches where security could be maintained and emergency relief provided. The 4th Marine Division erected three in their landing area near Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa, while the 2nd Division erected two in Susupe. By Day 3, June 18, the number of refugees had reached 8,130, a large percentage of them infant orphans.

On June 19, a military government was officially established on Saipan. Preventing acts of sabotage by the Japanese was their primary concern. The refugees were interviewed by American translators to determine their nationality and ethnicity. Japanese military personnel who had thrown away their uniforms and donned civilian clothing were transferred to a POW camp.

Each and every refugee was inspected for diseases that might be transferred to the American troops.

Chamorros and Carolinians were considered "liberated" peoples. Koreans were identified as citizens of a country that would regain its sovereignty after the war. The Japanese civilians, including Okinawans, were treated as citizens of an enemy nation and guarded to prevent acts of sabotage. Segregation of ethnic groups, Japanese, Korean, and Okinawans, was maintained in the camps.

Among the civilians interviewed, American translators discovered who could speak English. Some, like Gregorio Sablan, the first elected high chief of Saipan, and Elias P. Sablan, who was sworn in as high chief upon the passing of Sablan, were among the first to step forward and offer to help the Americans. They, and others like them, worked closely with the military leadership to manage affairs.

Listening to the local civilians, military civil affairs concluded there should be two refugee camps, one for Asians and one for locals. The Japanese, Okinawans, and Koreans would remain in Camp Susupe for the duration of the war. The Chamorros and Carolinians were moved into a new camp in Chalan Kanoa on Nov. 15, 1944. Although many of the houses formerly occupied by Japanese sugar mill employees had been damaged or destroyed by the war, many were in repairable condition. They were made livable with materials salvaged from nearby villages, with help by a scrounging detail from civil affairs.

The Chamorros and Carolinians were allowed out of the village during daylight hours to work with the military or to farm pieces of land allotted to them for growing vegetables. They also elected their own Camp Chalan Kanoa leadership, managed basic camp operations, and established private businesses along the beach road, catering to U.S. military personnel.

During their time off, military personnel walked through Chalan Kanoa and purchased hand-made items from the shops on the main road. This also gave the Chamorros and Carolinians an opportunity to practice the English language they were learning in the camp school.

The Chamorro internment camp on Saipan

Japanese orphans in Camp Susupe.

A doctor with an injured woman.

The local entertainment in the Chamorro internment camp.

Surprising everyone, the U.S. dropped atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on Aug. 6 and 9, respectively, bringing the war to a climactic end. Suddenly, the war was over. The surrender documents were signed on Sept. 2. War demobilization began immediately. The Marines, soldiers, and sailors wanted to go home, and America brought them home as quickly as possible.

Not everyone was happy about American departure. As they left, the American money went with them. The small stores began to close.

The repatriation of Saipan's Japanese, Okinawans, and Koreans began on Dec. 21, 1945. By late March, Camp Susupe was emptied, decommissioned, and destroyed. The mass exodus of 150,000 military personnel in the winter of 1945-1946 nearly depopulated the island.

When Camp Chalan Kanoa was decommissioned on July 4, 1946, there were about 4,000 Chamorros and Carolinians on Saipan, along with a handful of military administrators. Many of the Chamorros and Carolinians living in Camp Chalan Kanoa chose to remain in the village. Some descendants of those families still live in their prewar houses. The rest returned to their prewar villages, or moved into new villages as they were opened.

Today, Camp Chalan Kanoa is only remembered during the annual 4th of July Parade, now known as "Liberation Day," Saipan, commemorating the day the gate was opened, July 4, 1944.

Don A. Farrell is an educator, local historian, and author based on Tinian. He is known for his research and publications on the history of the Mariana Islands with an emphasis on World War II.

TRUMP

From page 6

ture week was a recurring joke. Giant tax cuts made the rich richer, while fueling massive deficits for others to pay for years. His support for coal, oil drilling, and withdrawal from the Paris Agreement worsened the growing impact of climate change.

Trump stacked the judiciary with extreme judges consisting mainly of white males, including a number who the American Bar Association rated as not qualified. A record number of cabinet officials were fired or left the office. The West Wing was in constant chaos and infighting.

Many Trump appointees exited under a cloud of corruption, grifting, and ethical scandals. Trump's children made millions off the White House. His dilettante son-in-law got $2 billion from the Saudi government for his fledgling investment firm even though he never managed money before.

Trump's mismanagement of the pandemic resulted in tens of thousands of needless deaths. He boasts about stacking the Supreme Court with extreme right-wingers who are stripping away individual rights, upending legal precedents, and making the country less safe. If elected, Trump may add to the court's conservative majority.

Of course, there were the unprecedented two impeachments. Now, Trump is a convicted felon who is staring at three more criminal indictments. He is running for president to stay out of prison.

Trump allegedly stole classified information and tried to overturn an election. His plans for a second term are worse than the last one. We cannot be serious about letting such a crooked clown back in the White House.

If anything, Trump doesn't deserve to be on the presidential debate stage. Why even give him a platform?

Yes, Biden had a horrible night. He's 81 and not as sharp as he used to be. But Biden on his worst day remains lightyears better than Trump on his best.

Biden must show that he is up to the job. This much is clear: He has a substantive record of real accomplishments, fighting the pandemic, combating climate change, investing in infrastructure, and supporting working families and the most vulnerable.

Biden has surrounded himself with experienced people who take public service seriously. He has passed major bipartisan legislation despite a dysfunctional Republican House majority.

Biden believes in the best of America. He has rebuilt relationships with allies around the world and stood up to foes like Russia and China.

There was only one person at the debate who does not deserve to be running for president. The sooner Trump exits the stage, the better off the country will be.

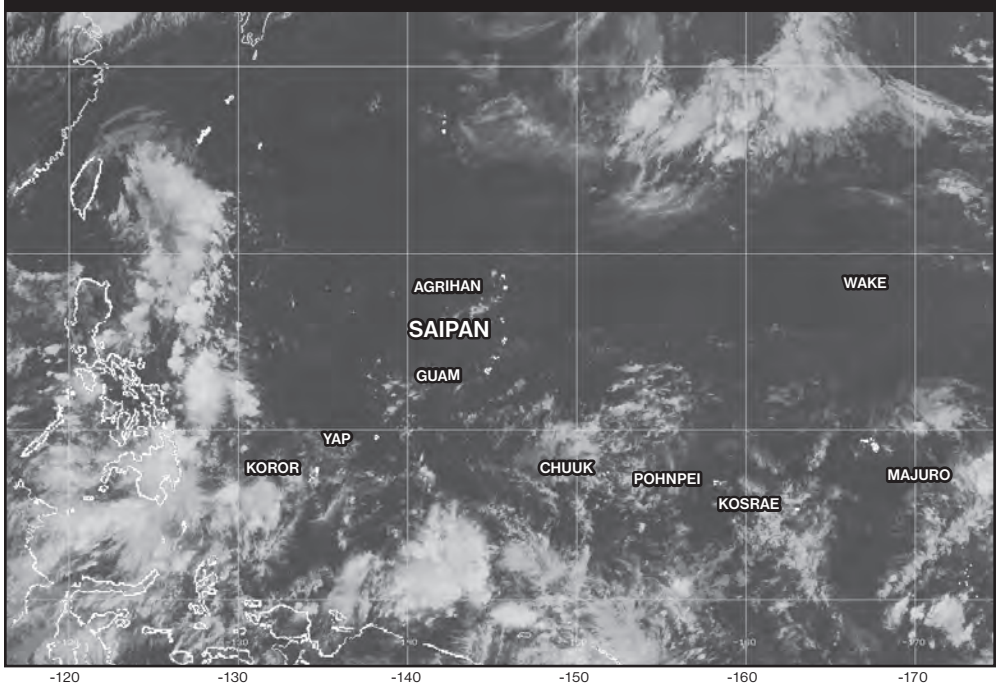
©2024 The Philadelphia Inquirer, LLC.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.
87° 76°	87° 76°	87° 76°	87° 76°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 3:51 AM MONDAY, JULY 8, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The weather and marine forecasts remain unchanged. A stint of drier weather will continue until a small disturbance brings a slight uptick in showers Wednesday through Thursday, followed by more pleasant weather thereafter. Combined seas of 3 to 5 feet will continue through the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	88° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:31 AM	9:30 PM	-
Wednesday	9:21 AM	10:05 PM	-
Thursday	10:08 AM	10:39 PM	-
Friday	10:53 AM	11:11 PM	-
Saturday	11:39 AM	11:44 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Cloudy	59° / 54°
Beijing	Fair	91° / 73°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	92° / 82°
Honolulu	Showers	86° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	82° / 63°
Los Angeles	Sunny	77° / 62°
Manila	Fair	93° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 52°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°
New York	Clear	90° / 76°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	94° / 83°
Paris	Sunny	84° / 64°
Busan	Cloudy	81° / 73°
Rome	Sunny	88° / 70°
Salem	Thunderstorm	90° / 72°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	67° / 54°
Seoul	Rain	80° / 75°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	96° / 81°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	97° / 81°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
4:17 AM	Low Tide	1.41
8:41 AM	High Tide	1.92
4:12 PM	Low Tide	0.04
11:25 PM	High Tide	1.96

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Daily from July 17

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

New Caledonia independence group demands Indigenous leader's release from custody

NICE, France (AP)—Members of a pro-independence movement in the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia demanded on Monday the "release and immediate return" of the Indigenous Kanak leader who was flown to mainland France for pretrial detention after recent deadly unrest.

Christian Tein, a leader of the movement known as The Field Action Coordination Unit, was flown out overnight Saturday, along with six other activists whom French authorities accuse of orchestrating the two weeks of unrest in May that left nine people dead, caused widespread destruction and led French President Emmanuel Macron to make an emergency visit.

"We demand the release and immediate return of our brothers and sisters to be judged in their homeland," the movement said in an statement. It condemned the activists' arrest and their transfer into custody 17,000 kilometers (10,500 miles) away and accused Macron's government of deploying "colonial tactics" in New Caledonia.

The Kanak people have long sought to break free from France, which first took the Pacific archipelago in 1853 and granted citizenship to all Kanaks in 1957. The latest violence flared on May 13 in response to attempts by Macron's government to amend the French Constitution and change voting lists in New Caledonia, which Kanaks feared would further marginalize them.

France declared a state of emergency two days later, rushing in 3,500 troops to help police quell the clashes, looting and arson.

Tein and nine other pro-independence leaders were placed under house arrest when the violence started. Tein was among pro-independence leaders who met with Macron during his visit to New Caledonia last month. After the meeting, the Kanak leader appealed to protesters to "maintain all (forms) of resistance" to achieve the main objective of "full independence."

AP

Demonstrators hold Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) flags during a gathering in Paris, Thursday May.16, 2024.

New Caledonia's public prosecutor, Yves Dupas, said that the transfer of the activists to mainland France would allow the investigation to continue "in a calm manner and without any pressure."

The prosecutor didn't name the other six activists. Reports in French media suggested they include the pro-independence group's communications director, Brenda Wanabo, and Frédérique Muliava, chief of staff to the president of New Caledonia's Congress.

Tein's group called the Kanak activists who were arrested last week "political prisoners" and described the government charges against them as "intolerable, unacceptable and above all unjust and unjustified."

The charges that the seven face include complicity in attempted murder, organized theft with a weapon, organized destruction of private property while endangering people, and participation in a criminal group with an intent to plan a crime.

Tein's group also accused French police and army troops of using "disproportionate force" against the pro-independence protesters and vowed that "the Kanak people will never give up on their desire for independence with peaceful means."

In the past seven months, The Field Action Coordination Unit has organized peaceful marches in New Caledonia against French authorities and the Paris-backed voting reform.

With France now plunged into campaigning for an early parliamentary election, Macron suspended the changes to voting rights in New Caledonia.

French Interior and Overseas Territories Minister Gérald Darmanin said last month that Tein's party was a "small group which calls itself pro-independence, but instead commits looting, murder and violence."

The National Council of Chiefs of the Indigenous Kanak people rejected allegations that the party was involved in the deadly violence. Grand Chief Hippolyte Sinewami-Htamumu expressed full support for the group, which has mobilized more than 100,000 people "of all ages and from all backgrounds" in the capital, Noumea, and elsewhere.

US Coast Guard strengthens relationships with FSM under Pacific Partnership

POHNPEI, Federated States of Micronesia—The U.S. Coast Guard continued its support for regional and Department of Defense efforts by bringing its expertise in search and rescue, disaster response, and maritime safety and security to partners in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, the week of June 3, 2024.

This support included processes education, coaching and mentoring, joint exercises, and sharing best practices by U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam and District 14 personnel, including Lt. Kira Adams, Dee Cruz, and George Butler.

The leadership and expertise of Adams, the U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam Joint Rescue Sub-Center chief, and Cruz, emergency manager, were instrumental in this initiative. Both women have significant roles in enhancing the region's maritime safety, security, and disaster response capabilities. Butler, a maritime emergency response and planning specialist from District 14, also brought a wealth of Incident Command System and mass rescue operations experience to the conversation.

USCG

Lt. Kira Adams discussed emergency operation center structures as the U.S. Coast Guard continued its support for regional and Department of Defense efforts by bringing its expertise in search and rescue, disaster response, and maritime safety and security to partners in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, the week of June 3, 2024. This support included processes education, coaching and mentoring, joint exercises, and sharing best practices by U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam and District 14 personnel, including Adams, Dee Cruz, and George Butler

"Our partnership with FSM's response and maritime forces is vital for effective search and rescue operations. By joining forces, we can respond quickly and efficiently to emergencies, ensuring the safety of everyone at sea. The dedication and expertise of our teams truly make a difference, allowing us to save lives and protect our shared maritime community," said Adams.

Pacific Partnership is an annual mission led by USINDOPACOM to strengthen regional relationships and improve preparedness, response, resiliency, and security across the Indo-Pacific. As part of this mission, the U.S. Coast Guard, in partnership with INDOPACOM's Center for Excellence in Disaster Management (CFE-DM), recently led a three-day Humanitarian And Disaster Assistance (HADR) Workshop. The workshop focused on enhancing the participants' understanding of Mass Rescue Operations (MRO), Incident Command System (ICS)/Emergency Operation Center (EOC), and EOC fundamentals.

The workshop included:

- Search and Rescue and Mass Rescue Operations
- Incident Command System/Emergency Operation Center
- Breakout groups on EOC fundamentals, setup, staffing, activation, demobilization, and ongoing recovery efforts post-disaster.

Cruz highlighted the impact of disaster response and humanitarian assistance, "In emergency management, our goal is to provide swift and effective disaster response and humanitarian assistance. Our ongoing partnership with FSM enables us to share best practices, improve readiness, and ensure we are well-prepared to respond to crises. Together, we are building a resilient and secure future for our communities."

Since 2021, the U.S. Coast Guard has been actively engaged in various activities to support FSM, making a significant impact. These include signing an expanded shiprider agreement on behalf of the United States to combat illicit maritime activities, conducting operations to promote security and economic prosperity, organizing search and rescue exercises, enhancing maritime law enforcement education, coaching, and mentoring, supporting community engagement, and participating in port visits and subject matter exchanges. These efforts underscore the U.S. Coast Guard's dedication to enhancing maritime safety, security, and environmental stewardship in the Pacific region through robust partnerships and collaborative efforts with FSM.

Born from the response to the 2004 tsunami in South and Southeast Asia, the Pacific Partnership has grown into the most extensive annual multinational HADR relief preparedness mission in the Indo-Pacific. Now in its 19th year, the mission enhances regional interoperability and disaster response capabilities and fosters enduring friendships, underlining the importance and relevance of the U.S. Coast Guard's activities alongside DoD partners in the region.

For more information about U.S. Coast Guard activities, please contact CWO Sara Muir, Public Affairs officer, at sara.g.muir@uscg.mil or uscgforcesmicronesia@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

World

Official: Hamas clears way for possible cease-fire

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza (AP)—Hamas has given its initial approval of a U.S.-backed proposal for a phased cease-fire deal in Gaza, dropping a key demand that Israel commit up front to a complete end to the war, a Hamas official and an Egyptian official said Saturday.

The apparent compromise by the militant group, which controlled Gaza before triggering the war with an Oct. 7 attack on Israel, could deliver the first pause in fighting since November and set the stage for further talks on ending a devastating nine months of fighting. But all sides cautioned that a deal is still not guaranteed.

Inside Gaza, the Health Ministry said an Israeli airstrike on a school-turned-shelter killed at least 16 people and wounded at least 50 others in the Nuseirat refugee camp. Children were among the dead and wounded. Israel's military said it struck several "terrorists" operating in the area of the school and had tried to lessen the risk to civilians.

The two officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss ongoing negotiations, said Washington's phased deal would start with a "full and complete" six-week cease-fire during which older, sick and female hostages would be released in exchange for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners. During those 42 days, Israeli forces would withdraw from densely populated areas of Gaza and allow the return of displaced people to their homes in northern Gaza, the officials said.

A senior Hamas official, also speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss negotiations, later told The Associated Press that female soldiers would be among those released in the first phase.

Over that period, Hamas, Israel and mediators would negotiate the terms of the second phase that could see the release of the remaining male hostages, both civilians and soldiers, the first two officials said. In return, Israel would free additional Palestinian prisoners and detainees. The third phase would include the return of any remaining hostages, including bodies of the dead, and the start of a yearslong reconstruction project.

Hamas still wants written guarantees from mediators that Israel will continue to negotiate a permanent cease-fire deal once the first phase goes into effect, the two officials said.

The first Hamas official told the AP the group's approval came after it received "verbal commitments and guarantees" from the mediators that the war won't be resumed and that negotiations will continue until a permanent cease-fire is reached.

Japan, PH sign defense pact allowing forces to train in each other's territory

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Japan and the Philippines signed a key defense pact Monday allowing the deployment of Japanese forces for joint military exercises, including live-fire drills, to the Southeast Asian nation that came under brutal Japanese occupation in World War II but is now building an alliance with Tokyo as they face an increasingly assertive China.

The Reciprocal Access Agreement, similarly allows Filipino forces to enter Japan for joint combat training, was signed by Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro and Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa in a Manila ceremony witnessed by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. It would take effect after ratification by the countries' legislatures, Philippine and Japanese officials said.

Kamikawa and Japanese Defense Minister Minoru Kihara are in Manila to hold talks with their Philippine counterparts on ways to further deepen relations, the Philippine government said in a statement.

The defense pact with the Philippines is the first to be forged by Japan in Asia. Japan signed similar accords with Australia in 2022 and with Britain last year.

Under Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, the Japanese government has taken steps to boost its security and defensive firepower, including a counterstrike capability that breaks from Japan's postwar principle of focusing only on self-defense, amid threats from North Korea and China's growing assertiveness. It's doubling defense spending in a five-year period to 2027 in a move to bolster its military power and make Japan the world's third-biggest military spender after the United States and China.

Many of Japan's Asian neighbors, including the Philippines, came under Japanese aggression until its defeat in World War II and Japan's efforts to bolster its military role and spending could be a sensitive issue. Japan and the Philippines, however, have steadily deepened defense and security ties.

Commemorate the
essence of a life well-lived and
honor the legacy of your loved ones
with an **Obituary** in the Saipan Tribune.
Our affordable rates include our expert
design services and a permanent online
space on the saipantribune.com.
For inquiries, please contact our advertising
specialists at (670) 235-8747 or
sales@saipantribune.com
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

WORLD BRIEFS

Sister of N. Korean leader Kim calls South Korea's live-fire drills 'suicidal hysteria'

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called South Korea's recent front-line live-fire drills "suicidal hysteria" as she threatened unspecified military steps Monday if further provoked. The warning by Kim Yo Jong came after South Korea resumed firing exercises near its tense land and sea borders with North Korea in the past two weeks. The exercises were the first of their kind since South Korea suspended a 2018 agreement with the North aimed at easing front-line military tensions in June. "The question is why the enemy kicked off such war drills near the border, suicidal hysteria, for which they will have to sustain terrible disaster," Kim Yo Jong said in a statement carried by state media. She accused South Korea's conservative government of deliberately escalating tensions as a way to escape a domestic political crisis

French vote gives leftists most seats over far right, but leaves hung parliament and deadlock

PARIS (AP)—A coalition of the French left won the most seats in high-stakes legislative elections Sunday, beating back a far-right surge but failing to win a majority. The outcome left France, a pillar of the European Union and Olympic host country, facing the stunning prospect of a hung parliament and political paralysis. The political turmoil could rattle markets and the French economy, the EU's second-largest, and have far-ranging implications for the war in Ukraine, global diplomacy and Europe's economic stability. In calling the election on June 9, after the far right surged in French voting for the European Parliament, President Emmanuel Macron said turning to voters again would provide "clarification." On almost every level, that gamble appears to have backfired. According to the official results released early Monday, all three main blocs fell far short of the 289 seats needed to control the 577-seat National Assembly, the more powerful of France's two legislative chambers.

Landslide triggered by torrential rain kills 11 people at illegal gold mine in Indonesia; 20 missing

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A landslide triggered by torrential rains crashed onto an unauthorized gold mining operation on Indonesia's Sulawesi island, killing at least 11 people, officials said Monday. About 33 villagers were digging for grains of gold on Sunday in a pit at the small traditional gold mine in remote Bone Bolango in Gorontalo province when tons of mud plunged down the surrounding hills and buried them, said Afifuddin Ilahude, Gorontalo's Search and Rescue Agency spokesperson. He said rescuers saved two injured people on Sunday and had recovered 11 bodies by Monday. Rescuers are still searching for 20 others who were reported missing, he said. Informal mining operations are common in Indonesia, providing a tenuous livelihood to thousands who labor in conditions with a high risk of serious injury or death.

Life & Style

'Despicable Me 4' debuts with $122.6M as boom times return to the box office

NEW YORK (AP)—After a historically bad first half of the year, the box office is suddenly booming.

"Despicable Me 4," the Illumination Animation sequel, led the way over the holiday weekend with $75 million in ticket sales Friday through Sunday and $122.6 million since opening on Wednesday, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Independence Day holiday weekend haul for the Universal Pictures release further extends the considerable box-office reign of the Minions, arguably the most bankable force in movies today. And it also kept a summer streak going for Hollywood.

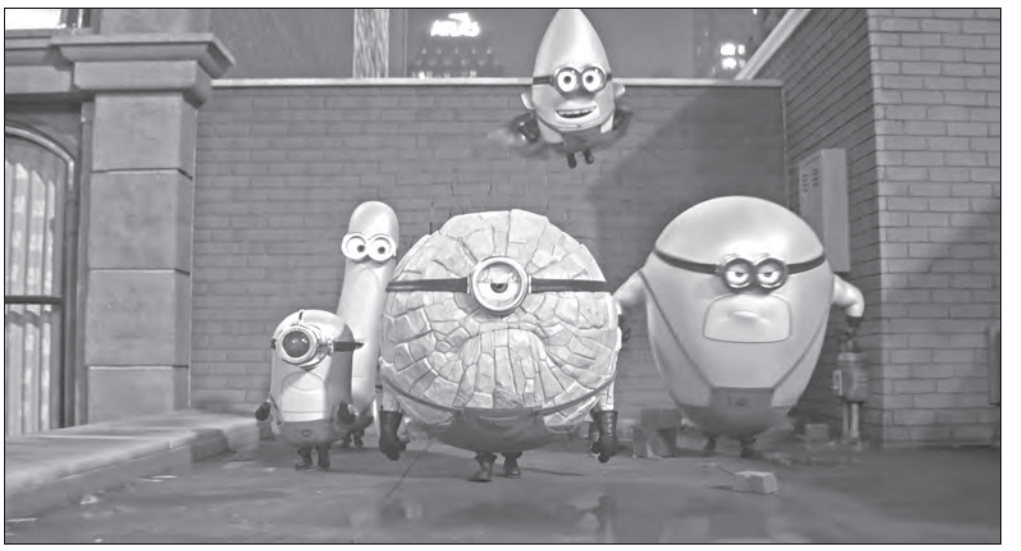
Though overall ticket sales were down more than 40% from levels prior to the COVID 19 pandemic, heading into the summer moviegoing season, theaters have lately seen a succession of hits. After Sony's "Bad Boys: Ride or Die" outperformed expectations, Pixar's "Inside Out 2" rapidly cleared $1 billion in ticket sales worldwide, making it the first release since "Barbie" to reach that mark. Last weekend, the Paramount prequel "A Quiet Place: Day One" also came in above expectations.

With "Deadpool & Wolverine" tracking for a $160 million launch later this month, Hollywood's summer is looking up.

"If you look at the mood of the industry about eight weeks ago, very different than today," says Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. "The song says what a difference a day makes. What a difference a month has made."

It helps to have the Minions at your disposal. Since first debuting in the 2010 original "Despicable Me," each entry of the franchise—including two sequels and two "Minions" spinoffs—has been seemingly guaranteed to gross around $1 billion. The four previous movies all made between $939 million (2022's "Minions: Rise of Gru") and $1.26 billion (2015's "Minions") globally.

That run has helped give Illumination founder and chief executive Chris Meledandri one of the most enviable track records in Hollywood. "Despicable Me 4," directed by Chris Renaud and Patrick Delage, returns the voice cast led by Steve Carell and Kristen Wiig and doubles down on more Minion mayhem. Reviews (54% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) weren't particularly good for the latest installment, which includes a witness protection plot and a group of Minions transformed into a superhero squadron. But in their 12-year run, little has slowed down the Minions.



AP

This image release by Illumination & Universal Pictures shows a scene from "Despicable Me 4,"

"This is one of the most beloved franchises, quite frankly, in the history of film, and certainly animation," said Jim Orr, distribution chief for Universal. "Chris Meledandri and Illumination have their finger on the pulse of what families and audiences around the world want to see."

Family movies are powering the box office. "Despicable Me 4" performed strongly despite the still considerable drawing power of "Inside Out 2." In its fourth weekend of release, the Pixar sequel added another $30 million domestically and $78.3 million overseas.

"Inside Out 2," with $1.22 billion in ticket sales thus far, is easily the year's biggest hit and fast climbing up the all-time ranks for animated releases. It currently ranks as the No. 5 animated release worldwide.

Instead of cannibalizing the opening weekend for "Despicable Me 4," "Inside Out 2" may have helped get families back in the habit of heading to theaters.

"What happened, I think, is the release calendar finally settled into a nice rhythm," said Dergarabedian, referencing the jumbled movie schedule from last year's strikes. "It's all about momentum."

The continued strong sales for "Inside Out 2" were enough to put the film in second place for the domestic weekend. Last week's top new film, "A Quiet Place: Day One," slid to third with $21 million in its second weekend, with another $21.1 million from overseas theaters. That was a steep decrease of 60%, though the Paramount prequel has amassed $178.2 million worldwide in two weeks.

The run of hits has caused some studios to boost their forecasts for the summer movie season. Heading into the most lucrative season at theaters, analysts were predicting a $3 billion summer, down from the more typical $4 billion mark. Now, closer to $3.4 billion appears likely.

The weekend's other top new release was Ti West's "MaXXXine," the third in a string of slasher films from A24 starring Mia Goth. In 2,450 locations, "MaXXXine" collected $6.7 million in ticket sales, a franchise best. The film, which follows "X" and "Pearl" (both released in 2022), stars Goth as a 1980s Hollywood starlet being hunted by a killer known as the Night Stalker.

Angel Studios, which last year released the unexpected summer hit "Sound of Freedom," struggled to find the same success with its latest Christian film, "Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot." It debuted with $3.2 million.

John Cena announces retirement from professional wrestling after 2025 season

John Cena announced Saturday night that he will retire from professional wrestling next year after two decades in the ring.

The wrestler-turned-actor delivered a heartfelt speech to a stadium of World Wrestling Entertainment fans in Toronto, who booed in disappointment as Cena said the 2025 season would be his last. He promised a farewell tour with dozens of dates and an epic final fight, and he assured fans he would remain involved with the wrestling franchise that launched his career.

Cena

"Thank you so much for letting me play in the house that you built for so many years," Cena told the crowd.

In a news conference after the event, Cena told reporters that he feels physically "at my end," but that doesn't mean he needs to distance himself from the sport he loves.

Cena is a 16-time WWE champion who burst onto the scene in the early 2000s as the fan-favorite "Doctor of Thuganomics," a rapper character decked in gold chains and a backwards hat who challenged his wrestling opponents to rap battles. He went on to portray other popular characters, both in the ring and on the big screen.

Cena played starring roles in the films "Blockers" and "The Suicide Squad." He has made multiple appearances in the "Fast & Furious" franchise and appeared most recently in the comedy thriller "Argylle" and the box office hit "Barbie." ***(AP)***

Woman believes sister has stepped over boundaries

DEAR ABBY: My sister has bullied and controlled me most of my life. She has said many very unkind things, and I have reached a place in my life where I need peace and distance from her. Because of this, I have blocked her from texting or calling me.

The problem I'm having is that my sister texts and sends pictures and presents to my in-laws. I feel this is inappropriate. She's married and has her own in-laws to grow a relationship with. I feel she does it to stay relevant in my life and also to show my in-laws that she's a nice person.

I know she's an adult and can have relationships with whomever she chooses, but it feels to me that she is overstepping boundaries. I can't breathe or have a life outside of her. My husband's family are MY in-laws, not hers. Are my feelings unreasonable?

SMOTHERED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR SMOTHERED: Your in-laws can have a relationship with anyone they wish. You cannot control who sends them texts, photos and gifts, particularly if they enjoy them. You may feel your sister has no place in their lives, but unless they agree, you are out of luck.

Of course, your feelings are your feelings and, from what you have written about your sister's past treatment of you, you're entitled to them. But to allow her to take up any more space in your head than you already have is counterproductive.

Talk with a therapist about this, if necessary, to help you quit obsessing about her. The problem isn't her —it is how you continue to react to her.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Growing up, my best friend was a female. We had a strong platonic friendship for many years. Our primary method of communication was letter-writing. We wrote hundreds of letters and emails to each other before we drifted apart during college.

We recently reconnected after 10 years and quickly began talking like we used to. I'm excited to write to my fellow letter-writer again, but we are both married now, and I want to be respectful of the spouses involved.

Is there a right way to revive our constant flow of letters and emails, like in the old days? The letters are respectful, and we write about a wide variety of topics that interest us.

CAUTIOUS IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CAUTIOUS: Letter-writing is fast becoming a dying art, and it's a shame. I hope you and your friend have been saving the correspondence you've exchanged because they are valuable keepsakes that reflect your activities and opinions as you both have matured.

I see nothing wrong with continuing the exchange of letters as long as your spouses are aware of it and don't object. More people should consider doing what you are doing. I have been told by friends (pre-"Abby") that they have kept mine and enjoyed rereading them.

■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

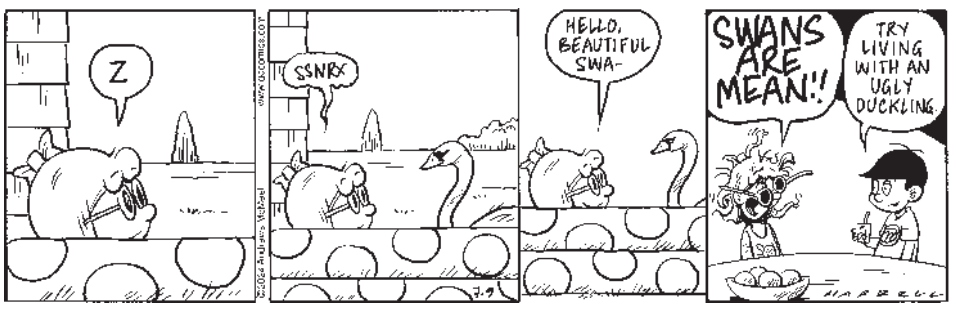
TOO BAD YOU'RE NOT GOING BACK TO THE JURASSIC WITH ME. AN OPPORTUNITY LIKE THIS DOESN'T COME ALONG EVERY DAY, YOU KNOW.
THE LESS OFTEN, THE BETTER, IS WHAT I SAY.
WE'RE JUST GOING ON A PHOTO SAFARI! WHEN WE COME BACK WITH REAL DINOSAUR PHOTOS, WE'LL GET RICH!
YOU CAN DROP THE "WE" STUFF. I'M NOT GOING.
OK. WELL, I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO EAT ALL THESE GREAT SNACKS MYSELF THEN.
SNACKS? WHAT KIND OF SNACKS? ARE THEY GOOD SNACKS? HOW MANY SNACKS DID YOU BRING??
NEVER MIND. YOU SAID YOU'RE NOT GOING.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

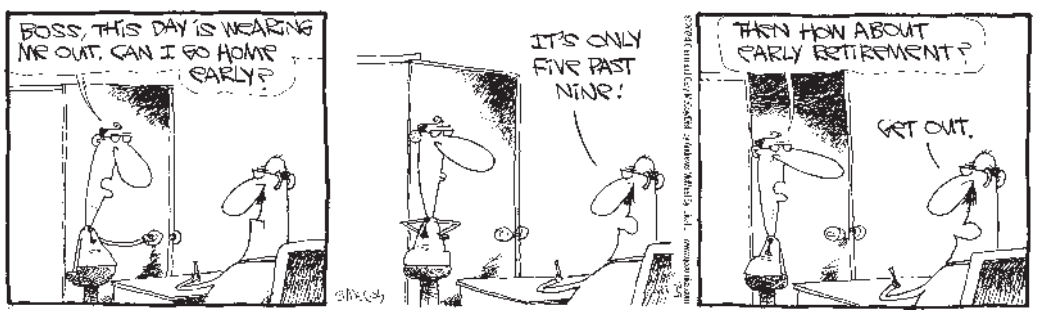
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Eve's grandson
5 Links org.
8 Try out
12 Peregrinate
13 Marseilles monarch
14 K thru 12
15 Naturalist John
16 Cooper of CNN
18 Slow tempo
20 Welcome
21 Key lime —
22 Chairman of China
23 Insertion symbol
26 Sci-fi automaton
30 — Jima
31 Mont. neighbor
32 Spanish gold
33 Fireplace tool
36 Categories
38 "Sheesh!"
39 — Paulo, Brazil
40 Scientist Newton
43 Neighbor of Spain
47 Auto racer Mario
49 Cad
50 Constructed
51 Ambulance VIP
52 Draft status
53 Lovers' quarrel
54 Donkey
55 Probability

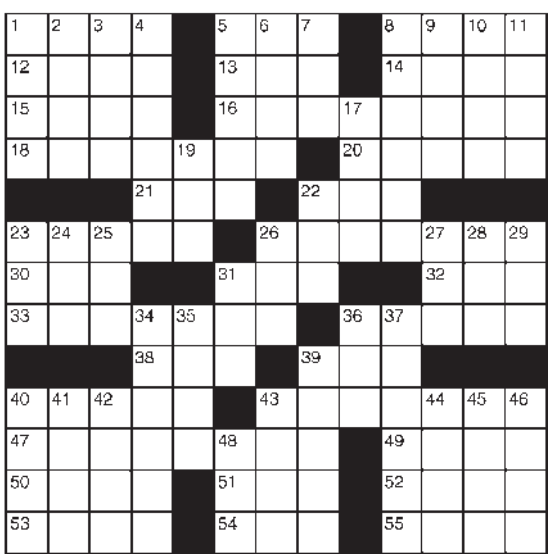
DOWN

1 Gospel singer Franklin
2 Subject, usually
3 Roman poet
4 Mexican shawl
5 Babble
6 Depleted
7 Succor
8 Extreme fear
9 Ultimatum ender
10 Mule, for one
11 Shade
17 "Zounds!"
19 Little louse
22 L-P link
23 Espionage org.
24 Bristle
25 Scepter
26 Writer Rand
27 "Alley —"
28 Anger
29 Two, in Toledo
31 Triumphed
34 Turkish inn
35 Indy event
36 Wee bit
37 "Anybody home?"
39 Tizzies
40 Pet food brand
41 Ginger cookie
42 "— pinch of salt ..."
43 $ dispensers
44 Tear
45 Marsh plant
46 Regrettably
48 Pot brew

Solution time: 22 mins.

P	D	C	M		J	A	B		A	S	C	A
L	R	G	O		O	D	L		M	O	P	S
S	C	A	N		H	F	R	C	U	I	F	S
O	H	D	A	R	N		G	O	I	D	F	N
			M	O	N	O		N	E	E		
H	E	R	I	T	A	G	E		T	R	O	D
E	N	O		I	S	L	A	M		E	E	E
N	C	A	A		H	E	R	A	L	D	R	Y
		D	D	S		S	E	L	A			
A	I	C	O	S	I		X	E	R	X	E	S
I	I	C	R	B	A	R	I	A		D	R	A	G
A	L	C	C		U	L	M		E	A	S	T
S	F	W	S		F	I	S		R	Y	F	S

Yesterday's answer 7-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Fred Savage, 48; Jack White, 49; Tom Hanks, 68; Jimmy Smits, 69.

Happy Birthday: Staying calm is the ticket to positive change. Refuse to let the drama happening around you take over. You owe it to yourself and the ones you love to be a take-charge person who stands up for what's right. Be original, humble and thrifty; everything else will fall into place. Put logic and reason first; be a leader, not a follower, and you'll make progress. Your numbers are 4, 10, 21, 29, 33, 38, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Physical activity will jump-start your day by easing stress and encouraging you to turn whatever task you take on into a memorable encounter. Be original when faced with challenges, and you'll find a way to overcome any obstacle. Have fun and explore the possibilities. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Avoid conversations with negative people or bullies. Focus on what you want to achieve. Do things your way and take responsibility. A personal change will turn out better than anticipated. If you're going to get ahead, talk less and do more. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Expand your interests and participate in events that offer hope. Pay attention to how you present yourself, and you'll get the opportunity to take on a leadership position. However, take on only what you can handle. Leave yourself ample time to complete domestic responsibilities. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You may crave change, but set a budget before you begin. Don't let anyone talk you into something you don't need or can't do yourself. Use your skills and choose your path wisely. When uncertainty plays a role, take a break and rethink your strategy. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Think big but start small. Putting a long-term plan in place will give you the wiggle room to reach your target while maintaining your budget. Give yourself a break to regenerate and grow. Let your intuition take over. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Consider your next move. Spontaneity will meet with opposition; review information, do more research and regroup. Emotions will surface if you engage in a heated conversation with someone who doesn't share your beliefs. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Pay attention and put your energy into something mentally and emotionally enriching. Refuse to let physical or professional setbacks drag you down. Turn things around with a positive attitude and a desire to learn something new, and proceed in a direction that excites you. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Proceed with caution. You may crave change, but consider the cost before participating in a venture. Financial or legal partnerships require more thought, patience and intuition to avoid loss or disappointment. Focus on personal gain and growth. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Keep an open mind, closed wallet and tabs on what's possible. Use intelligence to sort through matters, and do your best to approach each situation with a positive attitude. Arguing will set you back. Protect your reputation and cash by keeping your thoughts and intentions to yourself. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Change what's necessary. Additional expenses will lead to emotional stress and uncertainty. Pay attention to where your money goes and to worthwhile investments. A partnership can save you time and money and stabilize your life if you compromise. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Share your feelings and intentions. Don't let anger set in when patience is necessary to resolve issues between you and what you want to pursue. Adjust your surroundings to accommodate your plans, and you'll find the road to happiness you seek. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Consider what's necessary and let go of what isn't. Balance, integrity and fair play will help you avoid the pitfalls of overindulgence and making promises you cannot keep. Look inward and offer your best to those you love by taking better care of yourself. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, trendsetting and persuasive. You are persistent and open-minded.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		3	8	5				6
5	4	9	6		3			8
2	8	6		9		5		3
8							6	
6			7				5	
3					4	7	8	
		7	1				4	2
1		2	9					5
	5	8	2				1	

Difficulty: ★★ 7/9

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	5	2	3	1	8	6	4	9
6	3	4	2	5	9	7	1	8
8	9	1	7	6	4	5	2	3
1	6	7	5	8	3	4	9	2
2	4	5	9	7	1	8	3	6
3	8	9	4	2	6	1	7	5
4	1	3	8	9	5	2	6	7
5	2	6	1	3	7	9	8	4
9	7	8	6	4	2	3	5	1

©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Difficulty: ★ 7/8

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

MYSTERY SHOPPER Solution: 9 letters

M	E	R	C	H	A	N	D	I	S	E	L	I	M	S
A	A	S	S	I	S	T	T	C	E	P	S	N	I	U
L	I	N	E	T	W	O	R	K	C	H	E	Z	V	O
L	S	N	A	C	K	C	A	B	D	E	E	F	I	M
A	L	O	A	G	R	E	E	C	I	V	R	E	S	Y
N	E	I	S	E	E	E	V	O	L	E	T	R	I	N
O	C	T	H	C	L	(E)	T	O	T	K	S	O	T	O
I	U	A	I	L	(M)	C	S	A	R	O	O	T	N	N
S	S	C	F	(I)	D	M	U	I	S	P	H	S	U	A
S	T	O	(T)	N	E	L	S	L	U	C	M	P	O	Y
E	O	L	U	L	A	A	I	S	I	G	A	I	C	E
F	M	F	B	V	L	E	T	O	H	A	S	N	S	V
O	E	O	E	E	D	O	C	R	A	B	T	I	I	R
R	R	E	S	T	A	U	R	A	N	T	T	E	D	U
P	R	O	M	O	T	I	O	N	R	U	T	E	R	S

© 2024 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 7/9

Aisle, Anonymous, Assist, Barcode, Clean, Customer, Discount, Disguise, Evaluate, Feedback, Host, Hotel, Improve, Inspect, Location, Mall, Manage, Merchandise, Network, Photo, Problem Solve, Professional, Promotion, Refund, Restaurant, Retail, Return, Sales, Scan, Secret, Service, Shift, Size, Smile, Store, Survey, Time, Visit

Yesterday's Answer: Mustache

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 62 through 77, order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Braves shut out Phillies, 6-0, for series win

ATLANTA (AP—Reynaldo Lopez threw six strong innings and the Atlanta Braves hit four homers in a 6-0 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies on Sunday.

Lopez (7-2) lowered his league-leading ERA to 1.71, allowing just two hits and walking three with six strikeouts.

Adam Duvall, Jarred Kelenic and Matt Olson all homered in a five-run second inning off Phillies rookie Michael Mercado, and Eli White added a solo homer in the sixth inning.

Mercado (1-1), making just his second career start, didn't get out of the second inning, lasting just 1 2/3 innings and allowing five runs, five hits and three walks.

Kelenic was 1-for-3 with three RBIs and Duval was 3-for-4 with a double and a single to go along with his home run. White, who entered the game 0-for-7 since being called up from Triple-A Gwinnett, was 2-for-3 with two runs scored.

AP

Atlanta Braves' Jarred Kelenic hits a three-run home run in the second inning of a baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies Sunday, July 7, 2024, in Atlanta.

TIGERS 5, REDS 1

CINCINNATI (AP)—Tarik Skubal struck out a career-high 13 in seven innings, Zach McKinstry hit a two-run homer and Detroit swept a series for the first time since late May, beating Cincinnati.

Skubal (10-3) was sharp, mixing a fastball in the upper-90s with a changeup to keep Reds hitters on their heels. He allowed just three hits and walked no one. Cincinnati's only run came on a seventh-inning groundout.

McKinstry drove in Detroit's first run with a base hit in the fourth inning off Reds starter Graham Ashcraft (5-5) before his two-run blast to right field in the eighth off Alexis Diaz, the usually reliable Cincinnati closer.

Colt Keith had two hits and RBI, and Gio Urshela had three hits for the Tigers.

GUARDIANS 5, GIANTS 4

CLEVELAND (AP)—Bo Naylor had a pinch-hit, three-run homer in the sixth inning to give Cleveland a win over San Francisco and another home series win for the AL Central leaders.

Stepping in for Austin Hedges, Naylor connected with two outs off Sean Hjelle (3-3) as the Guardians improved to 30-11 at Progressive Field - the majors' best home mark - and 11-0-1 in series at home.

With the Giants leading 3-2, Andr√©s Gim√©nez and Tyler Freeman singled with two outs, and Naylor connected on a 2-2 pitch for his first career pinch-hit homer.

As Naylor rounded the bases, his brother, Josh, came on to the track outside Cleveland dugout to cheer.

CARDINALS 8, NATIONALS 3

WASHINGTON (AP)—Willson Contreras hit his second homer of the series and St. Louis defeated Washington.

Contreras hit a line drive 395-foot homer off Nationals reliever Derek Law in the seventh. He also singled and scored twice with three RBIs. The two-run shot was his ninth of the season and third homer in the past five days.

Nolan Gorman added a single, double and two RBIs. Gorman has enjoyed his stay in D.C. this weekend, going seven for his last 11 after a 6-for-69 (.087) slump from June 12-July 4. He has reached base safely in 46 of his last 50 games.

Nolan Arenado has also had a great series against the Nationals. The veteran third baseman had a two-run single in the three-run fifth inning. He has seven hits in the series.

TWINS 3, ASTROS 2

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Christian V√°zquez led off the ninth inning with a home run to give Minnesota Twins a victory over Houston.

V√°zquez, who had two hits and drove in all three Twins runs, hit a sinker from Josh Hader (3-5) high and deep to left field for his fourth homer of the season.

Jhoan Duran (4-3) pitched a scoreless ninth inning to earn the win.

The Twins have taken two of three games in each of their last five series, while the Astros wrapped up a 10-game road trip 6-4.

METS 3, PIRATES 2

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Francisco Lindor hit a two-run single with two outs in the ninth inning against Ardolis Chapman for his third hit of the game, rallying New York to a win over Pittsburgh.

Nick Gonzales hit a two-run single in the eighth off Edwin D√≠az (3-1) to give Pittsburgh a 2-1 lead, but the Mets rebounded and again reached .500 at 44-44.

Chapman (1-4) walked Francisco Alvarez leading off the ninth and gave up Harrison Bader's single. Chapman threw called third strikes past Mark Vientos and Luis Torrens, threw a wild pitch and walked Jose Iglesias.

Lindor pulled a 1-1 slider into left field to reach for the fourth time on an afternoon that included two singles, a double and a walk. Chapman blew a save for the third time in six chances and threw 40 pitches, his most since 42 for Cincinnati on Sept. 15, 2015.

MARLINS 7, WHITE SOX 4

MIAMI (AP)—Jake Burger hit a game-winning three-run homer and Miami scored four times in the ninth to beat Chicago.

Down to their last strike, the Marlins tied it on Josh Bell's RBI double off White Sox closer Michael Kopech (2-8). Chicago left fielder Tommy Pham tracked down Bell's drive but mistimed his leap at the wall that scored Vidal Brujan from third.

Jes√∫s S√°nchez was intentionally walked before Burger connected with a 431-foot blast for Miami's ninth walk-off win of the season.

Brujan drew a leadoff walk to start the ninth. Nick Fortes then advanced Brujan with a sacrifice bunt toward the first base area which Kopech fielded and tagged him out. But Brujan continued sprinting and reached third.

The White Sox dropped to a major league-worst 26-66.

RANGERS 13, RAYS 2

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Wyatt Langford and Jonah Heim matched career highs with four hits, Corey Seager had a three-run homer and Texas batted around twice in a rout of Tampa Bay that finished a three-game sweep.

Texas matched its season high with 19 hits, sending nine batters to the plate in both the fourth and fifth innings.

Nathan Eovaldi (6-3) allowed two runs and four hits in seven innings, improving to 5-0 with a .166 opponents' batting average at home.

Defending World Series champion Texas has won eight of its last 10 home games and is 24-21 at Globe Life Field but 18-27 on the road.

Tampa Bay was swept in a three-game series for the first time this season, getting outscored 20-5.

CUBS 5, ANGELS 0

CHICAGO (AP)—Hayden Wesneski threw 6 1/3 innings, Michael Busch hit a two-run home run and Chicago shut out Los Angeles.

Wesneski (3-5) allowed a single to the second batter he faced, then retired the next 18 Angels to help Chicago win a series for the first time in five tries. He allowed a hit, walk and two strikeouts.

Relievers Porter Hodge, Luke Little and H√©ctor Neris finished the three-hit shutout and Miguel Amaya added a pair of hits and an RBI for Chicago.

Jose Soriano (4-7) gave up three runs and six hits while striking out three and walking one in five innings.

ROYALS 10, ROCKIES 1

DENVER (AP)—Maikel Garcia, MJ Melendez and Bobby Witt Jr. homered, Brady Singer won for the first time on the road this season and Kansas City beat Colorado to end a three-game losing streak.

Garcia's three-run homer capped a four-run second inning off right-hander Tanner Gordon (0-1), who was making his major league debut. Garcia homered for first time since May 17, a span of 183 at-bats. He was six homer this season.

Melendez homered in the seventh, and Witt hit his 15th to cap a three-hit day in a three-run ninth.

Singer (5-5) gave one run and six hits - all singles - and stuck out seven in seven innings for his first road victory since Aug. 8, 2023, in Boston. He is 1-2 with a 3.24 ERA in eight road starts this season.

DIAMONDBACKS 9, PADRES 1

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Eugenio Suarez hit a tiebreaking two-run homer with two outs in the seventh inning and a bases-clearing double in the ninth in Arizona's victory over San Diego.

Arizona improved to .500 at 45-45, winning the final two games of the series after dropping the opener. The went 4-2 on their trip, also rebounding from an opening loss to take the final two in Los Angeles.

Su√°rez tied his career high with five RBIs and had three hits. The 11-year veteran was acquired from Seattle in November.

Corbin Carroll hit a leadoff homer for the defending NL champion Diamondbacks, who have won or split nine of their last 11 series.

ORIOLES 6, ATHLETICS 3

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Heston Kjerstad hit a three-run homer, Grayson Rodriguez had eight strikeouts in six innings and Baltimore beat Oakland.

Kjerstad's center field shot put the Orioles ahead 4-0 in the first. Anthony Santander hit his 23rd homer of the season earlier in the inning to start the two-out rally off A's starter Mitch Spence (5-5). Kjerstad also reached in the third on an error by A's center fielder JJ Bleday, who dropped a fly ball for an error. Santander scored the Orioles' fifth run on the play.

Rodriguez (11-3) has won six of his past seven starts. He allowed three runs in six innings, and struck out eight or more for the fifth time this season to lead the club.

BREWERS 9, DODGERS 2

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Christian Yelich and Blake Perkins both homered, had three hits and drove in three runs as Milwaukee beat Los Angeles to snap a seven-game losing streak at Dodger Stadium.

Eric Haase had a two-run homer in the fifth inning for the Brewers, who avoided a sweep in the weekend matchup of National League division leaders and are one of three teams in the majors not to have a losing streak of at least four games this season.

Yelich started the scoring with a two-run homer in the fourth inning off Dodgers' starter Justin Wrobleski (0-1), who was making his major league debut. It was the second straight game Yelich had gone deep to center. He added an RBI double in the ninth inning.

Yelich, voted in as one of the NL's starting outfielders for the July 16 All-Star Game, batted .393 (11 for 28) with three homers and five RBIs during the Brewers' six-game road trip.

BLUE JAYS 5, MARINERS 4, 10 INNINGS

SEATTLE (AP)—Daulton Varsho drove in the go-ahead with an RBI single in the top of the 10th inning, as Toronto beat Seattle.

Varsho's base-hit off Mariners reliever Collin Snider (0-1) with two outs drove in automatic runner Vladimir Guerrero Jr. from second base and sent the Blue Jays to a series victory over the Mariners, who have now dropped six consecutive series.

Chad Green (2-1) got the win. Genesis Cabrera pitched the 10th for his second save.

Mariners center fielder Victor Robles got the scoring started with a leadoff solo homer off Blue Jays starter Jose Berrios in the third, but Toronto tied it in the fourth when Bo Bichette led off with a ground-rule double against Kirby, and scored on a one-out sacrifice fly from Alejandro Kirk.

RED SOX 3, YANKEES 0

NEW YORK (AP)—Rafael Devers homered off rookie Luis Gil in the seventh inning and connected again in the ninth, leading Boston over the Yankees and sending New York to its 15th loss in 20 games.

Devers put Boston ahead on a 98.8 mph fastball from Gil (9-5), lifting the ball to the opposite field and into the first row of the left-field seats. He carried his bat up the first-base line before dropping it and completing a slow home run trot. Devers added his 21st home run of the season in the ninth off Michael Tonkin.

Devers has 16 homers at Yankee Stadium and 28 against New York.

Rookie Ceddanne Rafael homered in the eighth off Luke Weaver.

Boston has won six of seven and 16 of 22, improving to 14-1 on Sundays.

Back for 4th Olympics run, LeBron says gold is all that matters

LAS VEGAS (AP)—He first played on the U.S. Olympic team as a 19-year-old. He did it again in his 20s, twice. And now, a few months from turning 40, he's back for one more run.

LeBron James didn't need another Olympic experience to complete some missing box on his resume or add to a legacy that was secured long, long ago. He decided to play this summer for one simple reason—because he wants to.

Taking his first steps toward becoming the first U.S. men's basketball player to compete at the Olympics in three different decades, James hit the floor Saturday with the team that the Americans are sending to the Paris Games later this month. Training camp opened in Las Vegas, the start of a 5 1/2-week quest where the only acceptable ending will be the U.S. winning gold for a fifth consecutive time.

"I'm still playing a high level," James, a three-time Olympic medalist—two golds and one bronze—said Saturday after the first workout. "I still love the game of basketball. And Team USA has done well by me, so I felt like it was important for this summer to be able to go out there and play with the rest of the guys."

The first practice came on a day of another first for the James family; the workout in Las Vegas was simultaneous to the Los Angeles Lakers' first game in the California Classic summer league—the pro debut of Bronny James, the son of the NBA's all-time scoring leader.

It would have been very easy for James to ask for Day 1 off, to go see his son's debut. It was never a consideration. He took the floor shortly after the buses rolled in, slapping hands with teammates, throwing down dunks and reconnecting with two of his former coaches—Erik Spoelstra and Tyronn Lue, both of whom won NBA titles with James on their squads.

"I was blown away by how hard he practices," U.S. coach Steve Kerr said. "I went to Ty and Spo, and I said, 'Is this normal?' And they said, 'Every day, every day.' And then I said to Spo, 'What about way back when you got him?' And Spo said, 'Every day, every drill, every walkthrough.'"

Kerr has coached against James in four NBA Finals, all of which featured Golden State guard Stephen Curry—who plays for Kerr with the Warriors and is making his Olympic debut this summer.

And it's fair to say that teaming up was part of what intrigued James and Curry when it was time to decide whether to play in Paris or not.

"I've talked to both of them about this idea of being together after going against one another with such high stakes over the years," Kerr said. "They obviously fit really well together. The idea of Steph playing off the ball, and LeBron pushing it in transition, that's pretty intriguing. Obviously, Steph will play on the ball as well. And LeBron has become such a good shooter, but they're both so good at so many different areas of the game. I think they're really excited to compete together for the first time"

James was part of the U.S. teams that won bronze at the 2004 Olympics in Athens and the 2006 world championships (now called the World Cup) in Japan. And ever since then, the Americans have gone unbeaten when James is wearing USA across his chest in international play.

Starting with the bronze medal game in Japan 18 years ago, the U.S. has played 36 games—10 at the FIBA Americas tournament in 2007, then four exhibitions before and eight games at the 2008 Beijing Games, then five more exhibitions and eight games at the 2012 London Games—with James in uniform. The record: 36-0. He hopes it's 47-0 when this summer's run ends.

"I'm here to have a good summer," James said.

Even after not playing in Rio de Janeiro or Tokyo, James will be participating in his fourth Olympics—tying the record for the most by any U.S. men's player. Only Carmelo Anthony has played in four Olympics for the U.S. men to this point; Kevin Durant will play in his fourth this summer as well.

That's a nice side note, but not the thing James is thinking about these days.

"Our only goal," he said, "is to win a gold medal."

AP

LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers listens to a question from a reporter during training camp for the United States men's basketball team Saturday, July 6, 2024, in Las Vegas.

Klay Thompson offers thoughtful farewell to Warriors, fans in Instagram post

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Klay Thompson offered a farewell message to the Bay Area and Golden State fans after departing the Warriors in free agency this week to join the Dallas Mavericks on a three-year, $50 million contract.

On Instagram, Thompson posted to his 17.1 million followers Friday a photo of himself holding his new No. 11 jersey from after being drafted by the Warriors in 2011 with the 11th overall selection out of Washington State.

"Oh Bay Area, there are not enough words and images to convey how I really feel about yall," Thompson wrote. "From the bottom of my heart, thank you so much for the best times of my life. It was such an honor to put that Dubs jersey on from day 1. I really just wanted to be the best I could be and help bring as many championships as possible to the region. The best part was not the rings though, it was the friendships I made that will last a lifetime."

The 34-year-old Thompson won four championships with the Warriors alongside Splash Brother Stephen Curry and Draymond Green. The veteran guard missed more than 2 1/2 years—the entire 2019-20 and 2020-21 seasons—recovering from surgeries on his left knee and right Achilles before returning in January 2022 and calling the recoveries from consecutive injuries one of the hardest and most grueling things he'd ever done.

Curry had hoped to keep playing with Thompson as they made up one of the NBA's best backcourts.

"Gonna miss you (at)klaythompson," Curry shared in his own Instagram post Tuesday. "Even though we won't finish the journey together, what we did will never be done again. Couldn't have imagined a better run with you and (Draymond Green). Changed the whole Bay Area. Changed the way the game is played. Killa Klay at the center of it all. Thank you for everything bro. Go enjoy playing basketball and doing what you do. Splash Bros 4 life my guy."

Thompson had a frustrating 0-for-10 shooting performance in a 118-94 loss at Sacramento in the play-in tournament that ended the Warriors season without a playoff berth after they won the 2022 NBA title. He said when the season ended he wanted to chase a fifth championship before his career is done.

Several times Thompson had expressed his desire to stay with Golden State for his entire career, saying earlier this year, "I would love to be a Warrior for life."

Instead, the emotional Thompson is moving on with the Mavericks.

Thompson, a regular boater and bay swimmer who loved to sport a captain's hat that earned him the nickname "Captain Klay," also expressed his gratitude to Golden State—with a trio of hashtags: #foureverchamps, #splashbros4life and #oaklandforever.

"My family and I would like to thank all ok the amazing people who work tirelessly to make the (at)Warriors organization world-class," he said. "Don't be sad it's over, be happy it happened. Until we meet again. Sea captain out."

Hornets keeping forward Miles Bridges after agreeing to 3-year, $75M contact

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—The Charlotte Hornets are keeping forward Miles Bridges after the forward was re-signed to a three-year, $75 million contract, according to a person familiar with the situation.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity on Saturday because the agreement cannot yet be announced.

Bridges has spent his first five seasons with the Hornets and indicated leading up to free agency that he wanted to remain with the franchise that drafted him in the first round in 2018 out of Michigan State.

He averaged a career-high 21 points and 7.3 rebounds last season after sitting out all of the 2022-23 season due to his involvement in a domestic violence situation. He was suspended 30 games by the NBA last summer after pleading no contest, and sat out the first 10 games of the season.

In February, additional criminal charges connected to the domestic violence case against Bridges were brought, but then later dropped because of "insufficient evidence," court documents revealed.

Bridges had been facing three charges for an alleged violation of a domestic violence protection order in Charlotte on Oct. 6, 2023, misdemeanor child abuse and injury to personal property.

But the state said in a Charlotte Mecklenburg County Court filing that prosecutors would "not be successful at trial."

Authorities said the woman who accused Bridges gave conflicting stories of what happened.

Superior Court documents say that when police officers responded to a call they found a woman—the mother of Bridges' two children—and the two children in a vehicle with a damaged windshield. She initially told police another woman at the house caused the damage, but then told them a few days later it was Bridges who inflicted the damage.

Later, court documents stated the woman told prosecutors she was unsure how her car was damaged leading to the charges being dropped

Over the course of his five season with the Hornets, Bridges has averaged 14.8 points and six rebounds.

In other news, Charlotte announced that it received guard Devonte' Graham from the San Antonio Spurs in exchange for cash considerations. However, in a corresponding transaction, the Hornets waived Graham, making him an unrestricted free agent.

Charlotte also announced that it has waived forward Davis Bertans, guard Bryce McGowens and forward Aleksej Pokusevski.

Alcaraz, Sinner reach quarterfinals; Gauff loses

LONDON (AP)— There Carlos Alcaraz was, down on his backside at a baseline below the Royal Box, briefly taking a seat in the grass after doing the splits when he slipped while running to hit a forehand during his fourth-round match Sunday.

So now what? Give up on the point and get ready for the next? Ha. Not this kid. Alcaraz popped to his feet, sprinted to his left to get to a backhand wide of the doubles alley, then raced forward to reach a short shot and, eventually, watched his opponent send a volley long.

That allowed Alcaraz to claim the second set of what would become a 6-3, 6-4, 1-6, 7-5 victory against No. 16 seed Ugo Humbert at Centre Court. The defending champion at the All England Club celebrated the moment by raising his right index finger in a "No. 1" gesture and shouting "Vamos!" as thousands of spectators rose to salute him.

AP

Carlos Alcaraz of Spain plays a forehand return to Ugo Humbert of France during their fourth round match at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Sunday, July 7, 2024.

The 21-year-old Spaniard is making a habit of turning the impossible into the possible, figuring out ways to win points many other players would concede and, in the bigger picture, breaking new ground time after time. He's been the first teenager to reach No. 1 in the ATP rankings, and last month's French Open championship made him the youngest man to win Grand Slam titles on three surfaces: hard, grass and clay courts.

Asked during his on-court interview how he'd describe the remarkable sequence against Humbert, Alcaraz offered a huge smile and responded: "Unbelievable, I guess. I just try to fight every point, every ball. It doesn't matter what part of the court."

Unbelievable, maybe, but certainly not unprecedented. For him, at least. Later, at his news conference, he recalled having made that same sort of recovery from a fall during his thrill-a-minute marathon against rival Jannik Sinner at the 2022 U.S. Open, a tournament Alcaraz went on to win.

"I think," Alcaraz said, "that I can reach every ball."

There is a possible rematch against the No. 1-ranked Sinner looming in the semifinals. Each just needs to win once more to get there. In Tuesday's quarterfinals, Alcaraz will face No. 12 Tommy Paul, and Sinner goes up against 2021 U.S. Open champion Daniil Medvedev.

Sinner was bounced in last year's Wimbledon semifinals by Novak Djokovic, who then lost to Alcaraz in a five-set final.

Sinner earned his first Grand Slam title at the Australian Open in January, and he advanced Sunday with a 6-2, 6-4, 7-6 (9) win against No. 14 Ben Shelton, breaking the big-serving left-hander four times — the same total number of breaks others had managed against the 21-year-old American through 15 sets entering the day.

JAPAN

From page 16

the win, 21-18.

In the mixed doubles finals, Yuichi Shimogami and Sayaka Hobara started off the finals round with a win over Tori Aizawa and Hina Osawa, 21-19, 21-12.

Shimogami and Hobara pulled away early in the first set, 9-5, then 12-7, but Aizawa and Osawa quickly caught up to get within one, 11-12. Aizawa and Osawa then tied the game up twice and finally bagged their first lead, 18-17. However, they would score only one more point as Shimogami and Hobara overpowered them with their better placement and attacks that led to Aizawa and Osawa's errors.

Shimogami and Hobara then wrapped up the second set quickly to grab the win, 21-12.

Then, Mizuki Otake and Miyu Takahashi made light work of Miki Kanehiro and Rui Kiyama, 21-4, 21-10.

Otake and Takahashi breezed through the first as they set their afterburners to the highest setting and left Kanehiro and Kiyama reeling. They didn't give Kanehiro and Kiyama a chance to breathe let alone score, and allowed just four points to take the first set as quickly as it started.

The second set saw Kanehiro and Kiyama try their best to not to fall behind as they did in the first, but Otake and Takahashi's fiery momentum propelled them far ahead once again.

Before Kanehiro and Kiyama knew it, Otake and Takahashi were at an 18-6 lead. Otake and Takahashi then gave up four points before they upped the ante and won the finals after their dominating performance, 21-10.

Otake and Takahashi are both 21 years old and have been doubles partners since they were in high school. Takahashi said of their win, "[We've] won in Japan before, so [we're] happy to win overseas." They will then take on the BWF Super 100 in Indonesia this September.

Today, the Dove Saipan International 2024 begins and will take place until Saturday, July 13, also at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

BADMINTON OCEANIA

Japanese mixed doubles champions Sayaka Hobara and Yuichi Shimogami pose with Northern Marianas Badminton Association president Merlie Tolentino, right, and Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan general manager Clayton Darlington during the awards ceremony of the Badminton World Federation Grade 3 International Challenge tournament—the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2024—last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

GOLF

From page 16

Every milestone year, the Joeten DaiDai Foundation hosts the JMGC to help support various causes and non-profit organizations within the CNMI. This year, the JMGC was held on the 75th anniversary of Joeten and the late Jose Camacho Tenorio's 101st birthday.

Meanwhile, winners in other divisions of the tournament will be reported in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

IAKOPO

From page 16

tion and rest are also critical parts of my daily regimen."

Regardless of how she fares in the Olympics, Iakopo said she will definitely learn something from the experience,

"After every competition, there is always room for improvement. I'm excited to see how and what I will run in the Olympics because it will determine what I need more work on and how I can better execute my race."

As for representing her father's home islands instead of the CNMI where she grew up in, Iakopo said she basically had no choice.

"Unfortunately, the CNMI does not have an Olympic seat, therefore is unable to compete in the Olympic Games. I am blessed that the American Samoa Olympic Committee, through the American Samoa Track and Field Association, has given me this opportunity. Although I am unable to wave the CNMI flag on the Olympic track, I hold the CNMI in my heart. I truly hope that one day, the CNMI can be represented in the Olympics. While there's a part of me that feels torn, I see it as an opportunity to bring pride to both regions. My accomplishment of competing in the Olympics does not only belong to me but to everyone in the CNMI. It's a chance to showcase the talent and determination of Pacific Islanders on a global stage, and I am deeply proud to carry the hopes and dreams with me."

Iakopo assures despite representing American Samoa, she is still from the CNMI through and through.

"I have worked very hard to achieve this goal of mine. I am extremely grateful that I am not only Chamorro but I am also Samoan and I am equally proud to carry both cultures. Who I am is deeply rooted in being both being Chamorro and Samoan."

She then went on to thank everyone who made her Olympic journey possible.

"I would firstly like to thank the Lord Jesus Christ. All glory to God. My parents (Stanley and Priscilla Maratita Iakopo), my siblings, and partner for believing that I can achieve my dream. My coach, Peter Pulu, for his knowledge, expertise, and dedication to reaching the highest level in my track and field career. My Maraflo family, who has always supported me throughout my whole life. My late grandparents, Leonisa Flores Maratita and Mametto Ulloa Maratita, and my adopted Refaluwasch grandparents Angie and Manny Mangarero."

Iakopo also extended her thanks to the American Samoa sports bodies that also supported her all the way.

"I'd like to give my deepest gratitude to the American Samoa National Olympic Committee and its president Ed Imo and the American Samoa Track and Field Association and president and vice president Don and Deanna Fuimaono for selecting me to represent our nation, American Samoa, in the 2024 Olympic Games located in Paris, France.

As for her parents, Stanley said they're extremely proud of what their daughter has achieved.

"Glory always to God for all the blessings through all the struggles, and difficult times. It's always been her dream.... and my wife and I along with all our children all worked together and train together as a family support system and we help push one another."

Stanley added he coached and helped train her daughter and all their children in various sports.

"They all excelled competitively, performance wise, in every discipline. I coached all my kids since they were young until I knew and recognized that my kids (daughter) are at a different level of training required to perform at the highest level competitively...which is why my wife and I decided to hire coach Peter Pulu."

Pulu is a two time-Olympian from Papua New Guinea.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	57	33	.633	–
New York	55	37	.598	3
Boston	49	40	.551	7½
Tampa Bay	44	46	.489	13
Toronto	41	49	.456	16
Central Division				
Cleveland	56	32	.636	–
Minnesota	51	39	.567	6
Kansas City	49	43	.533	9
Detroit	42	48	.467	15
Chicago	26	66	.283	32
West Division				
Seattle	49	43	.533	–
Houston	46	44	.511	2
Texas	42	48	.467	6
Los Angeles	37	52	.416	10½
Oakland	34	58	.370	15

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	58	32	.644	–
Atlanta	49	39	.557	8
New York	44	44	.500	13
Washington	42	48	.467	16
Miami	32	58	.356	26
Central Division				
Milwaukee	53	38	.582	–
St. Louis	47	42	.528	5
Pittsburgh	42	47	.472	10
Cincinnati	42	48	.467	10½
Chicago	42	49	.462	11
West Division				
Los Angeles	55	36	.604	–
San Diego	49	45	.521	7½
Arizona	45	45	.500	9½
San Francisco	44	47	.484	11
Colorado	32	58	.356	22½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Braves shut out Phillies, 6-0, for series win

PAGE 13

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Alcaraz, Sinner reach quarterfinals; Gauff loses

PAGE 15

Japan duos sweep doubles finals

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Japan's badminton players showed off in the Badminton World Federation Grade 3 International Challenge tournament—the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2024—as they stormed and swept the finals stage last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Japanese duos swept the men's, women's, and mixed doubles finals—while only one division, the men's singles finals, featured non-Japanese players. The women's singles finals also featured Japanese players and was won by Kaoru Sugiyama.

The first of two International Challenge tilts on Saipan wrapped up with a men's doubles finals win by Takumi Nomura and Yuichi Shimogami over Mahiro Kaneko and Shunya Ota, in a thriller, 22-20, 21-18 matchup.

Japanese men's doubles champions Takumi Nomura and Yuichi Shimogami at the ready to receive the opening serve of the finals in the Badminton World Federation Grade 3 International Challenge tournament—the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2024—last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

LEIGH GASES

Japanese women's doubles champions Mizuki Otake and Miyu Takahashi in action during the second set of the Badminton World Federation Grade 3 International Challenge tournament—the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2024—last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Both dynamic duos exploded with energy on the court as they kept each other on their toes—vying for the upper hand and the win.

Each volley and point ignited war cries from each player as they took turns demolishing the birdie with each smash and attack. The first set saw a fight to the finish and culminated into a crucial tie, 20-20.

After about a 20-second volley, the advantage went to Nomura and Shimogami when Kaneko and Ota fell short with their return at the net. Then, the most important point came after an even longer volley at 30 seconds as both duos smashed and attacked their way in a battle that was eventually won by Nomura and Shimogami.

The second set was another lengthy battle as Nomura and Shimogami fell behind, 3-7, then 6-12. However, they then found their stride and placements as they went on to land consecutive points to catch up, 12-12.

But Nomura and Shimogami regrouped and reduced Kaneko and Ota to just six more points as they put their foot down and eventually took

See JAPAN on Page 15

Nick Reyes rules A Flight in Joeten Memorial Golf Classic

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nick Reyes ruled the A Flight of the 2024 Joeten Memorial Golf Classic last Saturday at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort east course.

He shot his way to the lowest gross score of 3-over 75. He racked up two birdies in holes No. 5 and No. 10. In the back nine, he parred on all holes besides hole No. 10 and No. 11, which was a bogey, for a score of 37.

A distant second place was PC Wu with a gross score of 82, while third place was Dominic Siebenthal with a gross score of 83.

The 52-year-old said his game in this tournament was the best he's had so far, with his favorite hole, hole No. 10 in which he hit a birdie. He said wasn't expecting to win, yet he did, so he was happy with the result. "I was looking at the board and no one was right behind me or in front of me, so okay, I'll take it," he said.

LEIGH GASES

Winner of the A Flight, Nick Reyes, center, poses with his trophy and Joeten Daidai Foundation's Shigeki Tenorio, left, and tournament director Peter "Dung" Tenorio during the awards ceremony of the 2024 Joeten Memorial Golf Classic last Saturday at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

As for the tournament, he said, "Joeten's tournament is pretty awesome. It's a different tournament because they have a lot of prizes and I guess that's what brings out a lot of people to play."

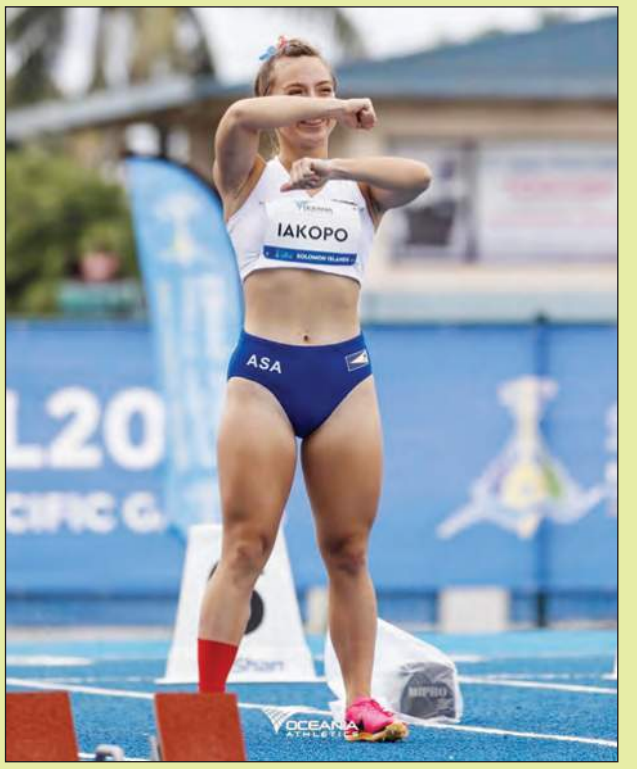
He then said that the tournament director, Peter "Dung" Tenorio, is a member of the golf club he's in, the Amigos Golf Club, and that they also came out in support of him.

Tenorio, during the awards ceremony, thanked the tourney's sponsors and all the clubs that came out to support the event. "Thank you all for coming out. We really wanted to put on a nice event for you guys since we play the same course 365 days a year. We kind of changed the format and I hope this year, you guys enjoyed it," he said.

He added, "we couldn't have done it without all the volunteers and of course our board members."

See GOLF on Page 15

Iakopo fulfills Olympic dream



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Filomenaleonisa Iakopo in this file photo from the recent 2024 Oceania Championships in Suva, Fiji.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

Recent Kagman High School graduate Filomenaleonisa Iakopo will be fulfilling her dream of competing in the Olympics as she will be suiting up for American Samoa in the world's biggest sporting event in Paris at the end of this month.

"When I got the news, I was overwhelmed with joy and disbelief. It felt like all my hard work and sacrifices had finally paid off. I was filled with immense pride and gratitude for the opportunity to compete at the 2024 Olympics in Paris, France," said the 18-year-old who graduated in the Top 10 of her class at KHS.

Iakopo said she qualified for the Olympics by competing in multiple qualifying events and achieving the required times in sanctioned competitions.

"My first international competition was in 2022 at the Oceania Athletics Championships in Mackay, Australia. Followed by the Pacific Mini Games 2022, Oceania Cup 2023, Pacific Games 2023, World Athletics Indoor Championships 2024 in Glasgow, Scotland and in June 2024 I competed in the Oceania Athletics Championships in Suva, Fiji. Throughout my track and field career, I broke the 100m and 200m records of American Samoa making me the current national record holder for both events. My consistent performance and dedication in training allowed me to hit these benchmarks and earning me a spot to represent American Samoa at the Olympic Games."

Iakopo, who will be attending Baylor University majoring in Neuroscience this coming school year, said she really had to work hard to train for the Paris Olympics.

"My training days involves a mix of sprint, strength and conditioning exercises, and technique work. I train twice a day, in the mornings I start with a warm-up, followed by specific drills to improve my start and acceleration and intense sprint intervals. Later in the afternoon I'm at the gym for strength training and plyometrics. For recovery I finish with a stretching routine and ice bath. Nutri-

See IAKOPO on Page 15